FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

Daily Report

Latin America

FBIS-LAT-89-016
Thursday
26 January 1989

Daily Report
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FBIS-LAT-89-016 | 26 January 1989

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Cuba

Perez de Cuellar Receives Aldana, Delegation

Force Reduction Plan Discussed

FL2401231189 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2032 GMT 24 Jan 89

[Text] The Cuban delegation headed by Carlos Aldana today exchanged impressions with UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar on the progress of the agreements for southwestern Africa. At the end of the meeting, Aldana said to the press that Cuba, at the UN Headquarters, reiterated its position regarding the strict fulfillment of UN Resolution 435, approved by the Security Council for the independence of Namibia. The secretary of the PCC Central Committee Secretariat said that Cuba affirms the need for the resolution to be fulfilled in spirit and letter.

Regarding our internationalists, Aldana said that the Cuban troops can withdraw from Angola because the road for the security of that country has been opened through international agreements for the independence of Namibia.

The meeting between the Cuban delegation, headed by Carlos Aldana, and Javier Perez de Cuellar coincided with the release of the report on the possible reduction of costs in the plan for the independence of Namibia. Aldana indicated that the situation in the occupied country has not lost its complexity to the extent that it can justify a reduction from $700 to $400 million and a reduction from 7 to 3 batallions for the UN assistance group for the transition period.

Aldana said it is not a financial matter but rather a political and moral matter in which the economic factor is secondary, because a price cannot be put on Namibia's independence and on the will of the international community. He said that it would be better to approve the original figure and, if it was necessary during the process, make reductions. Cuba, he said, holds a flexible position.

Commentary on Reductions

FL2501190289 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 25 Jan 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] Once again Cuba has stated with extreme clarity that the transition process for Namibia's independence cannot be thwarted or spoiled by devious maneuvers. The independence of that country, which is still under the shameful rule of colonialism and racism, can be reached by strictly adhering to UN Security Council Resolution 435. This is what the council itself approved in 1978 and it forms part of the tripartite agreement on southwest Africa that was signed last December.

Why propose now a plan for the reduction of the UN military component that will oversee the transition period in Namibia? It is true that this represents a cost reduction of some $300 million. It is also true that the proposal states that if necessary, it would be possible to increase the military component. However, Cuba has responded to this through the leader of its delegation in New York, Carlos Aldana, who said that after 10 years of so many efforts and sacrifices, the Namibian case cannot be reduced to a financial matter. It is, said Aldana, a political and moral affair where economics is of secondary importance, because you cannot put a price on Namibia's independence or the will of the international community.

Nevertheless, Cuba's position is not an extreme one. Our delegation has said: Why not approve the costs and UN personnel that were originally agreed upon? If during the transition period that program is not necessary, then they can reduce the forces. Is this not a more just, flexible, and coherent proposal? Cuba is not the only country to see it this way; all the nonaligned nations see it this way too.

You cannot lose sight of one fact: Apartheid's essence has not changed. If South Africa sat at the negotiation tables, it is because their setbacks on the battlefield forced them to. To believe something else would not be serious. However, South Africa has not renounced the idea of spoiling Namibia's independence or manipulating the electoral process there, and has shown its true intentions in disguise.

Because of this, let the proposal by the UN General Secretary's Office, perhaps outlined under pressure by some permanent members of the Security Council, not be acceptable. The agreements must be observed. Cuba is not asking for anything else.

SWAPO's Nujoma Cited on UN Troops

FL2301140589 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 23 Jan 89

[Text] Sam Nujoma, president of the South-West African People's Organization, SWAPO, visited the Isle of Youth to attend a celebration of revolutionary affirmation with the over 1,000 Namibian students that study there.

[Words indistinct] There was great joy among the Namibian students because this is the Namibian leader's first visit to the Isle of Youth after the implementation of UN Resolution 435. Nujoma visited laboratories, enjoyed typical Namibian dances, talked with the Cuban professors that teach the Namibians, and explained in detail to the Namibian students the present situation of their country and the roll they should play in building their new nation.

The African leader granted this reporter an interview and spoke about the UN Security Council's resolution that permits an analysis before putting into effect the proposal of reducing, by more than half, the United Nations forces that would guarantee free elections in Namibia.

[Begin Nujoma recording, in English with simultaneous Spanish translation] SWAPO demands, in view of the critical situation in Namibia, that the United Nations' forces be redoubled. There should be no reduction because the South African racist regime will certainly carry out its barbaric acts through the (SCUFU) [no further expansion given] squads who are now integrating the police force to demand law and order [as heard] during the elections. This is unacceptable to SWAPO and the Namibian people and we demand that the UN peacekeeping force be redoubled in order to be able to create a climate of peace conducive to the democratic elections in Namibia. [end recording]

U.S. Attempts To Condemn Human Rights 'Futile'

FL2401191889 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 24 Jan 89

["Exclusive" interview with Raul Roa Kouri, vice foreign minister of Cuba, by Lissette Bustamante; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Bustamante] The 45th session of the Human Rights Commission will begin in Geneva on 30 January. Moments before his departure, Raul Roa Kouri, who is heading the Cuban delegation to the meeting, granted this exclusive interview to the National Television Newscast.

The observer mission that visited Cuba will submit its report at this time.

[Roa Kouri] Exactly. The mission that visited Cuba should have prepared the report. It will now be translated and distributed to the commission member countries. This should happen on the 3d week of February.

[Bustamante] What kind of reaction do you believe there will be? What kind of campaigns are already taking place regarding the report on Cuba being submitted to the commission?

[Roa Kouri] The worms backed by the CIA and U.S. agencies have been carrying out for some time a slanderous campaign on the human rights situation in our country. I am extremely confident that the group of ambassadors who came to Cuba at the invitation of our government will prepare an objective report on what they observed in our country.

[Bustamante] What will be the U.S. delegation's position at this time?

[Roa Kouri] Of course, the U.S. delegation will attempt—as it did in previous years, and I am sure its attempts will be as futile—to condemn Cuba or somehow place Cuba on the defendant's seat.

[Bustamante] Will they attempt to put on the same propagandistic show [preceding word in English] they did the other time?

[Roa Kouri] Apparently the worms are going to go there. Bofill, the fake, and others of his kind are planning to go to Geneva. I believe this is going to have the same useless result of last year. Of course, we are not looking for a confrontation. It is not something that interests us. It is not our line. But of course, we will firmly reject any attempt made by the United States to distort the situation existing in Cuba.

Solidarity With Salvadoran People Reiterated

FL2401141089 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 24 Jan 89

[Text] Cuba's solidarity with the Salvadoran people's struggle for their freedom was reaffirmed at the end of the meeting on solidarity with the brother Central American country.

This meeting began 17 January and has had a wide range of programs throughout the entire country. At the closing act, an FMLN representative spoke about the situation in his country, where guerrilla warfare has been expanded and urban warfare has reached a higher level. He said that the FMLN is willing to look for realistic alternatives for peace without abandoning the principles that gave birth to their struggle.

Manuel Pineiro Losada, member of the PCC Central Committee, gave the main speech at the ceremony.

[Begin Pineiro recording] These last 8 years in El Salvador show the failure of policies based on false premises of prepotent positions and force, which do not take into account the true socioeconomic situation and ignore the capacity for struggle and sacrifices of the people. [applause] [end recording]

Minister Comments on 'Productive' Moscow Trip

FL2401030589 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 24 Jan 89

[Text] During a meeting with the press that specializes in trade, Manuel Vila Sosa, Cuban minister of domestic trade, termed his recent work visit to the Soviet Union productive.

The minister reported that during his 8-day visit in Moscow he held talks with leaders from 12 ministries to finalize this year's import plan. The plan includes the supply of refrigerators, black and white and color televisions, and spare parts for the televisions. It also proposes to import from the USSR wheat flour, powdered milk,

bath and laundry soap, clothing, and spare parts for air conditioners and washers. Agreements were also made for the provision of all equipment for barber and beauty shops which are being remodeled and for workshops which render services to the population.

Chinese Ambassador Tours Granma Province

FL2101021389 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0043 GMT 21 Jan 89

[Text] PRC Ambassador to Cuba (Tang Yongui) is visiting Granma Province, where he toured sites in the Manzanillo and Rio Cauto Municipalities. (Cheng Meysu) and (Xie Chichuan), first secretary and trade advisor, respectively, of the PRC Embassy in Cuba, also arrived in Granma.

The ambassador was accompanied by PCC Central Committee members Jose Antonio Naranjo, government minister and chief of the commander in chief's coordination and support team; Roberto Damian Alfonso, first secretary of the PCC in Granma; and Jorge Fernandez Cuervo, fishing industry minister.

Austrian Education Minister Arrives for Visit

FL2301131389 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 23 Jan 89

[Text] Education Minister Jose Ramon Fernandez has received Dr Hilde Hawlicek, education and art minister of the Republic of Austria, at the Jose Marti International Airport.

During her 1-week stay, the Austrian minister will visit educational centers on the Isle of Youth and scientific development centers. She will also meet with officials from the Culture Ministry and the sports sector.

Hawlicek said she was happy to be in Cuba again.

Further on Culture Minister at CEMA Meeting

FL2301233389 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2302 GMT 23 Jan 89

[Text] Cuban Minister of Culture Armando Hart said today in Moscow that socialist nations must look for the correct paths to promote bilateral and multilateral cooperation in the area of culture. Hart spoke on behalf of his colleagues at the 130th CEMA Executive Committee meeting and emphasized that that was the conclusion which had been reached at the recent meeting held in Havana.

The Cuban minister urged that art and literature, which have great social, political, and economic importance, be included in the international cooperational plans in proportion to their significance.

Addressing the CEMA Executive Committee, Armando Hart said art is no longer a luxury and, instead, has become a necessity for the social and economic development of our countries.

Raul Castro Greets MTT Financing Commissions

FL2101025189 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 21 Jan 89

[Text] Roberto Veiga, member of the PCC Politburo and secretary general of the CTC [Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions], conveyed the greetings of the FAR minister, Army General Raul Castro, to the members of the National and Provincial Commissions for the Financing of the MTT [Territorial Troop Militia].

The greetings from the PCC's second secretary were sent in praise of the commissions' contributions to defense, which was raised to almost 28 million pesos in 1988. This is a 120-percent fulfillment level. It was reported, during the meeting, that all the provinces except Havana, Pinar del Rio, and Isle of Youth fulfilled their commitment. Havana City Province was the one that best met the requirements.

All political and mass organizations fulfilled their quotas for the year. The organization most noted in this was the CDR [Committees for the Defense of the Revolution], which had a 136-percent fulfillment, as well as contributing 2 million pesos more than their national directorate.

Veiga noted the need to increase donations by 10 percent.

[Begin recording] I think we can feel satisfied with the results attained last year. This, of course, is a commitment for us to improve our work and consolidate these results in the year we have just begun. [end recording]

Interior Ministry Honors CTC on Anniversary

FL2401221789 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 24 Jan 89

[Text] The Interior Ministry has honored the Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions [CTC] on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of its founding. The ceremony was presided over by Roberto Veiga, member of the PCC Politburo and secretary general of the CTC, and members of the CTC Secretariat, members of the high command, and chiefs and officers of the Interior Ministry.

Division General German Barreiro Carames spoke on behalf of the Interior Ministry. Later, Division General Fabian Escalante Font, chief of the Central Political Directorate of the Interior Ministry, presented a picture of Captain Eliseo Reyes to Roberto Veiga.

Rene Penalver, member of the PCC Central Committee and second secretary of the CTC, referred to the fraternal ties linking the Cuban workers and the Interior Ministry combatants who look after the people's safety and peace.

Pedro Miret Presides Over Award Ceremony

FL2401021189 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 24 Jan 89

[Text] The Ernesto Che Guevara Banner, which is granted by the PCC Central Committee Secretariat at the recommendation of the CTC [Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions] to outstanding collectives for their high production achievements, has been awarded to the Nico Lopez oil by-products production enterprise. The award ceremony was presided over by Pedro Miret [Prieto], member of the PCC Central Committee Politburo.

Jorge Lezcano Perez, member of the PCC Central Committee and Havana's first party secretary, presented the banner to oustanding worker (Jaime Pedi), who received it on behalf of all the refinery's workers.

This award, which is only given once, is one of the many this enterprise has received, including the title of National Vanguard for 10 years. In 1987, the enterprise's collective was elected as outstanding in production, efficiency, quality, and savings.

Jurist Convention Begins 23 January

FL2301184889 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 23 Jan 89

[Text] The Inter-American Labor Rights and Social Security meeting began this morning with the presence of over 1,000 lawyers and specialists from over 30 countries. The meeting is being held at the Palace of Conventions.

Dr Carlos Amat, president of the National Union of Cuban Lawyers, gave the welcoming speech. In it he invited the delegates at the meeting, on behalf of the Cuban lawyers, to study, exchange information on, and debate—with frank and open discussions—the subjects presented in this meeting.

Afterwards, (Amar Bentune), president of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers, and (Marnio Fortes), a representative of the Latin American Union of Lawyers and Workers, spoke at the inaugural session. In their speeches they noted the importance of Cuba hosting this meeting. They also referred to the present socioeconomic conditions in Latin America.

Commander of the Revolution Carlos Nunez Tellez also spoke at the inaugural session. Nunez, who is also president of Nicaragua's National Assembly, referred to the U.S. aggression which is being heroically faced by the people of Nicaragua, especially regarding economic and social aspects.

[Begin recording] That is why we stress that carrying out the Central American presidential summit could mean peace if we avoid any type of pressure which could impede reaching true and solid agreements for the region, agreements that are backed by the Bush administration, Latin America, and the world. Only in this way can we reach our final objective: to establish a firm and lasting peace in Central America. [end recording]

This afternoon the delegates will work in three commissions, analyzing some 30 reports on social security and labor rights.

Workers' Rights Reviewed

FL2401191489 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 24 Jan 89

[Text] The second work session of the Inter-American Labor Rights and Social Security meeting continues today. The meeting is being held by commissions, three in all, whose delegates are examining some 90 papers. The commission that attracts the most delegates is commission no 3. This commission analyzes the right to unionize, labor relations, and workers' involvement in enterprise administration.

This morning, commission no 3 had favorable reviews of the paper "Rights and Conditions of the Working Woman" by Comrade (Sonia Sordo Ruiz) of the State Committee for Labor and Social Security. Her work placated a debate by the Latin American delegates. On this subject, (Sordo's) paper stressed the difference between Cuba and most of the countries in the area.

The commissions will continue to analyze reports this afternoon. The topics to be studied will be, among others, the rights of the working woman, participation by Cuban workers in decisionmaking in enterprises, and protection in maternity and infancy cases [as heard].

Social Prevention Meeting Discusses Work

FL2101022289 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 21 Jan 89

[Text] The Third Plenum of the National Commission of Social Prevention and Attention ended today after 2 days of intense debates. The meeting was held at the Nico Lopez School of the PCC and was presided over by PCC Politburo members Jose Ramon Machado Ventura and Vilma Espin, president of the FMC [Federation of Cuban Women] and the National Commission of Social Prevention and Attention.

Among the subjects discussed, the delegates studied the work done in the provinces during the past 2 years. The theme at the center of the studies was the attention given to the ex-inmates and their placement in jobs.

At the same time, they analyzed the work being done with youths who have no job ties or school ties [jovenes desvinculados] and with the youths who have conduct

problems, many of who have been reincorporated into school and work. In this regard they mentioned the achievements of the MINED [Ministry of Education] and State Committee for Labor and Social Security joint Resolution 1/88.

At the meeting's closing, Jose Ramon Machado Ventura classified as positive the commission's work, as well as the results of the coordination efforts. Finally, he said that prevention is a task for all society and that everyone should work toward that noble objective.

Also present at the meeting were other PCC officials, mass organization officials, and generals, chiefs, and officers of the MININT [Ministry of Interior].

Tourism Official on 1988 Statistics, Growth

PA2201213489 Havana International Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 21 Jan 89

[Interview with Orosman Quintero, vice president of the National Institute of Tourism, by journalist Isis Maria Allen; no date or place given—recorded]

[Text] [Allen] Orosman Quintero, vice president of the National Institute of Tourism, INTUR, could you give us some information on the number of tourists who visited Cuba last year and tell us something about how the tourist industry is developing?

[Quintero] I can tell you that 1988 is considered to have been a good year in view of the increased number of tourists who visited Cuba and the increased income derived from tourism in the country. Approximately 193,200 tourists from capitalist countries and 31,800 tourists from socialist countries visited Cuba in 1988. In other words, 225,000 tourists visited Cuba in 1988, resulting in an income of $124 million for the INTUR alone. This represents an increase of $21 million compared with the 1987 figures, a 20-percent increase. The number of tourists increased 18 percent and income derived from tourism increased 20 percent compared to 1987.

[Allen] Keeping in mind that most of the people who listen to the Spanish broadcasts are Latin Americans, I would like to ask you something: In previous years, we saw that we had some limitations concerning air transportation to certain South American countries. Have there been any improvements? Could you tell me, in general terms, how the situation has improved?

[Quintero] We have a direct flight to Brazil, and we also have a weekly direct flight to Venezuela. We have [words indistinct] to Argentina with the regular flight and some charter flights during the peak tourist season. We also have direct flights to Peru, and we inaugurated a flight to the Dominican Republic last year. We have a weekly flight to the Dominican Republic and everything is working all right so far.

Regarding Mexico, everything continues the same, meaning that things are still going well. We have regular flights and we have been authorized additional flights whenever necessary. We also have flights to the Caribbean area. We have a flight to Jamaica and a flight to Trinidad-Tobago, with a stopover in Barbados.

We have no problems concerning connections with any Latin American countries. Furthermore, we can schedule charter flights to certain countries—for example, Colombia—for a certain period of time. In other words, we currently face no limitations concerning air transportation.

[Allen] Regarding transportation, could you talk about the cruises that you have been planning?

[Quintero] This is a significant part of the tourism industry. Approximately 5 million tourists on cruise ships pass by Cuba every year, but only 3,000 to 4,000 of these tourists actually visit Cuba. Therefore, there is much potential here, and we are working with the Ministry of Transportation to develop it. We want to improve the port facilities—the docking, landing, and repair facilities—in Santiago de Cuba and Havana. We must build the facilities in these two ports to receive cruise ships.

Third Air Corridor Open to Continental Traffic

FL2101014589 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0043 GMT 21 Jan 89

[Text] Cuba has authorized the opening of a third air corridor over its territory for use by continental traffic, which will benefit airlines from Colombia, Chile, and Peru.

This information was provided by (Sin Du), secretary general of the International Civil Aviation Organization, ICAO, who is visiting Havana.

The official added that the agreement is an excellent example of cooperation between that organization and the Government of Cuba, which has been represented in the ICAO council, a special UN agency, since October 1986.

Caricom

Broadcasting Union Transmits To Europe

FL2501131489 Bridgetown CANA in English 2217 GMT 24 Jan 89

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Jan 24, CANA—The Barbados-based Caribbean Broadcasting Union (CBU) on Tuesday said it broke new ground when it beamed a news report on the opening session of the joint assembly here of the African, Caribbean, and Pacific (ACP) bloc and the European Economic Community (EEC) to Europe via satellite.

The New York office of the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) joined the CBU's daily regional TV news exchange—Caribuision.

The technical coordination for the satellite transmission was done by Trinidad and Tobago External Telecommunications Limited (Textel). EBU/New York included the story in its daily satellite package for Eurovision, the European news exchange system, which is also available for other parts of the world including Latin America, Asia, Arabia, and North Africa. The story was shot by a joint team from the CBU and the state-run Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation TV system here.

Barbados

SWAPO-ANC Group Seeks Support for Namibia

FL2001232289 Bridgetown CANA in English 2314 GMT 20 Jan 89

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Jan 20, CANA—A delegation from the African National Congress (ANC) and the South West African People's Organisation (SWAPO) visiting Barbados has called for Caribbean and international support for Namibia even though the independence process has started.

"The path to independence for Namibia (South West Africa) has started but the people need the full support of people throughout the world," SWAPO spokesman Andre Ashina said Friday. When the delegation paid a call on Barbado's Foreign Minister, Sir James Tudor.

Sir James reiterated Barbadian support for the independence of Namibia and a call for the abolition of apartheid in South Africa. He also urged the release of ANC leader Nelson Mandela from prison.

The ANC/SWAPO delegation is on a Caribbean tour to drum up support for the southern Africa cause.

Dominican Republic

Former President's Imprisonment, Case Addressed

Prison Treatment Criticized

FL2301161689 Santo Domingo Cadena de Noticias in Spanish 0949 GMT 23 Jan 89

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] A lawyer from Salvador Jorge Blanco's defense team has said that the former president continues to be harassed at the Ensanche La Fe prison.

In statements made to the Cadena de Noticias newsroom, Dr Virgilio Bello Rosa said that Jorge Blanco receives discriminatory treatment in prison because he is a political prisoner:

[Bello Rosa] "The harassment has not ceased because Dr Jorge Blanco is a political prisoner of the current regime. Since he is a political prisoner, he has received a treatment of total persecution, a totally discriminatory treatment, a treatment that constantly strikes out at him in his imprisonment in Ensanche La Fe.

"First of all, Dr Jorge Blanco should not be imprisoned for any reason because Dr Jorge Blanco has not violated any law in the Dominican Republic."

Bello Rosa complained that former President Jorge Blanco is under strict security in the prison while other prisoners have normal visiting hours.

[Bello Rosa] "Specifically, Jorge Blanco is isolated in prison. He can only receive his closest family members on weekdays, such as his wife, Dona (Acela), and his two children, Fernando and Lidia Liticia. He can also receive his lawyers. I understand he is also able to see two legislators.

"Any common prisoner, even any other political prisoner, is allowed daily visits on any day. Dr Jorge Blanco is only allowed to have visitors on Saturdays between the hours of 1000 to 1500." [passage indistinct]

Case Gets 30-Day Extension

FL2501170989 Santo Domingo Tele-Radio Noticias Television and Radio Network in Spanish 0929 GMT 25 Jan 89

[Text] The judge of the 10th Criminal Court has given a new 30-day extension to former President Salvador Jorge Blanco so that he and his attorneys can study his case.

Judge Juan Maria Severino issued a judgement giving Jorge Blanco an extension beginning 23 January. The judge had given the former president a similar extension earlier, but the attorneys [words indistinct] of a new extension.

Jorge Blanco's attorneys will get together a team of people and a photocopier at the 10th Criminal Court to photocopy the dossier. They also announced that they are preparing a type of [words indistinct].

Balaguer To Investigate Radio, TV Corruption

FL2301144589 Santo Domingo Tele-Radio Noticias Television and Radio Network in Spanish 0923 GMT 23 Jan 89

[Text] President Joaquin Balaguer says that when he receives the audit done on Dominican Radio and Television, he will study it in detail. The president said that he will take the appropriate measures if the director of this organization, (Adriano Rodriguez), or anyone else

has committed an act of corruption. He said that the comptroller general of the Republic has informed him of some irregularities in the Dominican Radio and Television firm.

Reformist Leaders Arrange Party Convention
FL2501174589 Santo Domingo Cadena de Noticias in Spanish 0939 GMT 25 Jan 89

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] A commission of Reformist leaders has visited the president of the Central Electoral Board to obtain a list of people who will participate in the national convention this Thursday. The leaders of the PRSC [Reformist-Socialist Christian Party]—Dr (Augusto Liacosto Sicar), Lic [name indistinct], and Senator Cruz Infante—said that it was essential to learn the names of those participating in the Reformist assembly.

Senator Cruz Infante, the commission's spokesman, said that they need the list to learn the names of the delegates that qualify for the next convention.

[Cruz Infante] "We visited the president and members of the Central Electoral Board to formalize [words indistinct] because the PRSC feels it is pertinent to have this list before the regular national assembly is held on 26 January. We feel this list is essential because it is the only way we will learn the names of those delegates who are qualified to participate in this assembly."

Senator Cruz Infante denied that municipal assemblies are held in the interior of the country to get delegates to attend the Reformist assembly.

[Cruz Infante] "Contrary to what has been said in some areas in the interior of the country, municipal assembly meetings have not been held. The delegates qualified to participate in the assembly, according to our statutes, are those who participated in the last national regular assembly held in 1984. The Central Electoral Board has that list of names. We will obtain a copy of this list from the president of the electoral board and with this we will [words indistinct] substitute delegates we have been (?denouncing). On the contrary, the authentic and legitimate delegates of the PRSC will have [words indistinct]."

Unification Movement Urges PRD Leaders To Meet
FL2501161089 Santo Domingo Tele-Radio Noticias Television and Radio Network in Spanish 0914 GMT 25 Jan 89

[Text] The PRD [Dominican Revolutionary Party] Unification Movement proposed that Jacobo Majluta, Jose Francisco Pena Gomez, and Jose Rafael Abinader participate in a meeting to reunite the party. The PRD organization says that Pena Gomez, Majluta, and Abinader have the authority to reach an agreement reuniting the PRD.

The unification movement also proposed that the PRD choose their candidates for the positions of president and vice president of the Dominican Republic at that meeting. They also suggested that the PRD take the opportunity at that meeting to select people to fill congressional and municipal positions and to restructure all PRD organs.

Grenada

Prime Minister Blaize Ousted as Party Leader
FL2301163289 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 23 Jan 89

[Text] Grenadian Prime Minister Herbert Blaize will stay on as prime minister for the meantime, but he has been ousted from his post as head of the ruling party.

A party convention voted to replace Mr Blaize in the party top spot with Keith Mitchell. That means that Mr Mitchell will be the next prime minister if the ruling New National Party wins the next Grenadian elections, which are to be held sometime before next December.

Minister's Brother Refuses Venezuela Trial
FL2001222689 Bridgetown CANA in English 2300 GMT 20 Jan 89

[Text] St George's, Grenada, Jan 20, CANA—Emmanuel Duncan, brother of Grenada's minister of state for women's affairs, Grace Duncan, has vowed not to return to Venezuela to face smuggling charges laid against him and five other Grenadians.

The six were apprehended on September 21 on the tourist island of Margarita but allowed to return home for the Christmas holiday after agreeing to be back in Margarita early January to stand trial. But Duncan and two others did not return, forcing the judge to postpone the case.

In a statement here, Duncan claimed that he had not committed any crime and feared he would not receive a fair trial in Venezuela. He said the goods involved in the matter were legally purchased by him.

Venezuela authorities say the Grenadians were held with an estimated U.S. 15,000 dollars worth of goods on the country's negative export list.

Duncan also took External Affairs Minister Ben Jones to task over a statement in which he said the failure of the three to return for their trial was a "national embarrassment" for Grenada.

Jones said that the behaviour of the three had placed them in the position of being fugitives and they could face problems in gaining entry into other countries.

Duncan also accused the Grenada Government of failing to take the "right steps" to solve the problem with Venezuela in "minimal time."

Haiti

Franck Romain Implicated in Bosco Massacre

FL2401164189 Port-au-Prince LE NOUVELLISTE in French No 33442 20 Jan 89 p 1

[Text] The group of examining magistrates presided over by attorney Georges Moise yesterday announced that the preliminary investigation into the Franck Romain case has been completed. The case has been transferred to the criminal court for trials by jury.

This action closes this dossier, which must now be sent to the public prosecutor with a view to preparing the charges. The accused will then be given notice of these charges.

This ruling, issued less than 3 weeks after the government granted Franck Romain a safe-conduct, seems to be a step toward trying (?in absentia) the man accused of being one of the main persons responsible for the St Jean Bosco massacre.

Human Rights Organizations Issue Communique

FL2301175489 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 20 Jan 89

[Text] In a joint communique dated 13 January 1989, the human rights organizations issued a statement on the Franck Romain affair. According to these human rights organizations, in connection with the Franck Romain affair the government should have referred to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights instead of the inter-American human rights agreement. The organizations say that Franck Romain violated the principles of the Organization of the United Nations when he publicly endorsed the 11 September 1988 genocide in which many people died in front of Saint Jean Bosco Church.

The human rights organizations speak of the agreement of 9 December 1988—(?about the part) of the agreement on the contracting parties. This agreement is on prevention and repression of the crime of genocide. The human rights organizations think that the government could have refused to issue Franck Romain a safe-conduct based on the inter-American human rights agreement.

Finally, these organizations remind the ministers who signed Franck Romain's safe-conduct that Romain has never been persecuted in Haiti and that the government should take a series of concrete measures aimed at bringing to trial notorious criminals in order to restore the Haitian people's trust, so that the democratic process can take place normally. This would be serving justice. This would show that there is a desire to really respect Haiti's international commitments in connection with human rights.

The communique is signed by Attorney Maxi Joseph, Jean-Yves Gelin, Rosalvo Blaise, Dr Jean-Claude Bajeux, Attorney (Raymond Pierre), and Robert Duval.

Nicaraguan Official Discusses Relations

FL2101173689 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 20 Jan 89

[Excerpts] Nicaragua's Sandinist Government is willing to have diplomatic relations with all countries as long as there is mutual respect; and regarding possible relations with Haiti, the two people have similar histories. Both are poor, Third World countries, victims of the same injustice. This is what emerged from an interview granted to us here by a representative of the Sandinist government, following a meeting between Haitian Foreign Minister Serges Elie Charles and the members of the Sandinist delegation participating in the festivities in celebration of the 20th anniversary of the Unified Party of Haitian Communists [PUCH].

Haitian Foreign Minister Serges Elie Charles met Wednesday with the members of the Sandinist government delegation that has come to Haiti to participate in the ceremonies commemorating the 20th anniversary of the PUCH.

Hugo Meneses, an international relations [department] official of the Nicaraguan Government, said that he could not discuss the matters examined at the meeting with the Haitian foreign minister.

In an interview with Radio Soleil, Meneses declared:

[Begin Meneses recording, in Spanish] Before, during the Somoza dictatorship, Nicaragua had diplomatic relations with Haiti, with the Duvalierist dictatorship, and upon the triumph of the revolution... [Spanish fades out, end recording]

[Announcer, in Creole] Nicaragua had relations with Haiti during the Somoza and Duvalier dictatorships. When the Sandinist revolution triumphed, the relations between the two countries remained in effect. They were not broken off. However, they are not entertained in an official manner. There are no official representatives. The Sandinist government contacted General Namphy's KNG [National Government Council] after Duvalier fell in 1986 to see how these relations could be made more official.

According to Hugo Meneses, the Sandinist government would be happy to establish official diplomatic relations with Haiti. However, Haiti would also have to want this. [passage omitted] Meneses said that Nicaragua is ever ready to have relations with all other countries, as long as they agree to respect the principle of nonintervention in Nicaragua's affairs and as long as there is mutual respect, the same way this principle is respected in their country. [sentence as heard].

In the case of Haiti, Meneses said, and we quote: The two peoples have identical histories. They are both poor, Third World peoples, both part of Latin America and the Caribbean. They are very near to one another, and they are going through the same travail. This is what can motivate them further to entertain proper [bon jan] relations.

[Begin Meneses recording, in Spanish] [Passage omitted] We have had to bear the same vicissitudes, and we think that the establishment—or rather, adjustment—of these relations would lead to bringing the two peoples closer, would lead to greater unity among... [Spanish fades out, end recording]

[Announcer, in Creole] Meneses says that he thinks that such relations could lead to a rapprochement and better unity between the two peoples.

The members of the Nicaraguan delegation said that they are willing to meet with the Haitian president, Lieutenant General Prosper Avril, if President Avril is willing to meet with them.

CATH Considering 'Unlimited' General Strike

FL2001210189 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 20 Jan 89

[Monitored in progress]

[Text] ...Haitian Workers Committee [COH] and the metropolitan area drivers union. They did not speak well at all of the political leaders who took a position against the call for a strike. Even the people who gave only moral support were castigated. The organizers of the conference thanked everyone who even partially observed the strike call.

Also, the members of the CATH [Autonomous Organization of Haitian Workers] are wondering about the return to Haiti of former Interior Minister Colonel Williams Regala.

Finally, the CATH members are thinking of calling for a general strike of unlimited duration should the demands made not be satisfied.

Arcahaie-Cabaret Drivers Strike 23 Jan

FL2301190689 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 23 Jan 89

[Excerpts] The drivers of Arcahaie had announced a warning strike for today aimed at forcing the Public Works Ministry authorities to rebuild the (Bretelle) bridge, which fell apart a few months ago. [passage omitted]

[Arcahaie correspondent Marc Lesly Ambroise—live or recorded] [Passage omitted] The warning strike scheduled by the Arcahaie-Cabaret drivers union is still on. The drivers have taken measures. The strike is aimed at getting the Department of Public Works to work on the bridge that has been out for a long time. [passage omitted]

Pro-Aristide Petition Drawn Up in Jeremie

FL2001211489 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 19 Jan 89

[Report by Jeremie correspondent Luckner Laguerre]

[Excerpts] There is a petition being drawn up at present in Jeremie under the supervision of the Reverend Father (Joachim Samedy), the parish priest of the parish of Sainte Helene, a poor area of Jeremie. This petition is being drawn up with a view to collecting signatures in Jeremie and in the 19 parishes of the Grande Anse to get the Salesian authorities and the bishops to rescind their decision to expel Father Jean Bertrand Aristide from the Salesian Order, to get them to take Father Aristide back into the Order, as before.

Yesterday morning, in a talk lasting more than 20 minutes over local radio station Radio Grande Anse, Father (Samedy) continued to accuse the Salesian authorities and the church hierarchy of much complicity in this business of expelling Father Aristide. Father (Samedy) said that when the dirty laundry smelled so bad that the neighbors could smell it, laundry that dirty could not be washed in private. Father (Samedy) said that it was not Father Aristide's defense alone that he would take. Even if the person in question were to be a devil, a practitioner of voodoo, or a Protestant, Father (Samedy) said he would be on that person's side as long as the person was doing good things—and that he was on Father Aristide's side because Father Aristide was doing good things.

Father (Samedy) said that last Wednesday, 4 January, a number of priests, nuns, monks, and laymen had held an important meeting in Port-au-Prince to study Father Aristide's case. They had invited Monsignor Gayot to come or to send a delegation if he were unable to attend. The head of the church did not send anyone.

[Begin Father (Samedy) recording] [Passage omitted] However, we held an important meeting anyway—which began at 0900 and ended at 1800. There were many ideas discussed at that meeting, and (?much stirring) began. And if you see that not much has yet been done in Jeremie, it isn't the fault of the people of Jeremie. It might be my fault. I was one of the two people from Jeremie at the meeting. In the end I was chosen to act as spokesman, as a delegate, at the level of the diocese, to bring the problem into the public eye in the diocese. However, I had a little problem. I couldn't get back. I got back late. That is mainly why I came here—so that Radio Grande Anse can help me do this work.

We have a lot of ideas in our heads. We have many plans, many alternatives. Should we do such and such and should this or that not occur, we have such and such other thing to attempt. We have a final recourses which... [changes thought] We have final means, certain final weapons to use.

When you are going to do battle with an enemy, you cannot reveal your battle plan to him; if you do, he will prepare himself so he can do you in. Thus, I won't tell you exactly what our plans are. You will learn of them gradually. [end recording]

Finally, Father (Samedy) added that they were starting with dialogue, but that they had several other powerful means. Father (Samedy) said should dialogue prove ineffective, should the church hierarchy and the Salesians not bow down and take back their decision to drive Father Aristide out, they would use these other means—adding that they hoped that people would not howl, that there would not be yelling, when this happened.

This is Luckner Laguerre, RTNH, Jeremie.

'Expelled' Doctor Holds News Conference 18 Jan

FL2001005089 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 19 Jan 89

[Text] Dr (Faublas) of the Good Samaritan Center in the Dominican Republic, accompanied by Dr Paul Etienne, held a news conference yesterday morning at the offices of the Ecumenical Center for Human Rights on Avenue des Marguerites. The news conference was in connection with the Dominican Embassy's refusal to authorize Dr Paul Etienne to go to the Dominican Republic.

The speaker, Dr (Faubias), said that the Dominican ambassador had returned Dr Etienne's passport to him without a visa, and that Dr Etienne is the center's only doctor. No explanation has been given as to why Dr Etienne was expelled.

Highlighting the possible reasons for this interdiction, Dr (Faublas) said that his colleague had always remained aloof from politics, both national and international, while in the Dominican Republic. Dr Etienne was in the Dominican Republic only to concern himself with the problems of the Haitians who were having a hard time in the Dominican sugar camps.

According to Dr (Faublas), the Haitian Embassy in the Dominican Republic never concretely concerned itself with the fate of Haitians in the Dominican Republic.

RDC Letter Asks President Avril To Resign

FL2001212289 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 19 Jan 89

[Excerpts] Like ORNADEJ [National Organization for the Defense of the Young], the Assembly of Christian Democrats [RDC] has written President Prosper Avril an open letter asking him to resign for not having satisfied any of the Haitian people's demands. [passage omitted]

The RDC points out to the president that he said he would respect the spirit of the Constitution of 1987, and that this is not at all the case. [passage omitted]

At the end of the letter, the RDC informs the president that it is his right to consider himself the greatest democrat on earth if he so chooses, but that in order to prove this to himself, the Haitian people, and the entire world, he would have to resign (?as president). He could thus make sure that he would spare the country (?the poverty that is increasing violence, and all kinds of problems). Only by resigning can he prove to the Haitian people that he has no political ambitions.

This is some of what is in the letter addressed to the Haitian president, Lieutenant General Prosper Avril, by the RDC.

RDC President Cited

FL2501155489 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 23 Jan 89

[Excerpt] The Christian Democratic Assembly [RDC], the political party of the deceased Yves Volel, met the press today. RDC President Eddy Volel is calling for President Prosper Avril to resign. Eddy Volel harshly criticized the Avril government, particularly its administration. He also criticized the provincial section chiefs, whom he considers to be the pillars of the repressive apparatus.

Thus, the RDC protests Prosper Avril's administration, which he accuses of corruption.

Regarding the CEDHA [Electoral College of Haiti]—or rather the forum on the CEDHA, which has been announced for 9 February—Volel declares himself to be against holding this forum. He is already announcing that he is going to launch a general strike next 9 February to show the government his refusal to participate in this forum. Volel also calls on Haiti's political leaders to act together with a view to finding an alternative to replace Mr Prosper Avril at the head of the nation. Here is an excerpt from this morning's news conference:

[Begin Volel recording, in Creole] We think that Prosper Avril (?has done) too much. He is not in his proper place. He has not justified his being president. He must resign and allow the Haitian people to begin to catch a (?breath of fresh air) as of 7 February 1989. Thank you. [end recording] [passage omitted]

MIDH Director on Need for Concerted Action

FL2001214389 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 19 Jan 89

[Excerpt] The MIDH, the Movement for the Establishment of Democracy in Haiti, whose leader is Marc Bazin, has called for unitary action by the democratic

sector. The MIDH feels that the problems raised by the CATH [Autonomous Organization of Haitian Workers] during last 17 January's general strike still remain.

MIDH political director Claude Roumain feels that no concrete results can be obtained without united action by the democratic sector. Here is Mr Roumain:

[Begin Roumain recording, in Creole] When we examine the 17 January strike, we feel that we were right to take the position we took, because the problems raised during the strike, the demands made, still remain, and the country achieved nothing through this strike.

We think that people should not confuse combativeness with effectiveness. You might be very combative and bring up many problems, many of which might be very valid, and yet resolve nothing. We think that the democratic forces must learn a lesson from the past 2 years so that they can take united action, concerted action, effective action—that is, action that results in solutions, actions which lead to our solving problems instead of just bringing them up without solving anything. [passage omitted] [end recording]

MDN States Position on Participating in Forum

FL2501160489 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 23 Jan 89

[Excerpts] The position of the MDN [Mobilization for National Development] on the 9 February 1989 forum: The MDN says it sent a letter on 20 January in answer to Lieutenant General Prosper Avril, thanking him for his invitation to the 9 February forum. [passage omitted]

According to an MDN press release, MDN leader [Hubert de Ronceray] says explicitly in paragraphs three and four of his letter: The MDN thinks it is in the interest of the government and of the nation to work cumulatively [de mener une action cumulative], first submitting a work document laying out the main lines common to the organizations that have already been met with, [and then providing] a system of options for appropriate decisions, the points on the forum's agenda, and the list of the organizations and leaders invited.

Should these preparations be taken into consideration, the MDN can envision participating in the 9 February forum fully. If not, the MDN will send an observer.

Boat Owners, Drivers Protest Customs Procedures

FL2301190189 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 23 Jan 89

[Report by Miragoane correspondent Yves-Marie Jasmin]

[Excerpts] In the port of Miragoane for several generations sailboats have been coming in to unload merchandise such as sisal, peanuts, charcoal, watermelons, cassavas, and other such things from La Gonave Island. [passage omitted] However, for the past 2 years or so, big vessels from abroad have been using the Miragoane wharf, forcing the boats from La Gonave to unload at the old (?bus station), which is a portion of government-owned land down by the sea where the big trucks and other vehicles that had not yet gone through customs used to be parked.

Also, we remind listeners that the tax collecters from back then had leased—without the communal magistrate's knowledge—the government-owned lands used by the customs office. These lands were bringing in lots of money for (?a certain) bigshot. [passage omitted]

The sailboats from La Gonave are having many problems finding a place to unload the merchandise they are carrying, despite the fact that they pay the government taxes—both on La Gonave and at the Miragoane tax office—in order to be allowed to unload. That's why they are complaining, asking the customs director to give them, too, a place to unload.

We point out that the piece of government-owned land at customs in question continues to provide big bucks for the bigshots, because drivers have to pay the men who have leased the government-owned land $20 in order to load up with merchandise while—the drivers claim—each boat has already paid these same bigshots $400 in order to be allowed to unload. [passage omitted]

Thus there are many complaints, and both the owners of the sailboats from La Gonave and the drivers of the big trucks are waiting for this portion of government-owned land to return to the hands of the customs office, so that the sailboats can, as in the past, unload without problems and so the trucks can go through the customs gates in order to load up, without having to pay anything.

Before ending our report, we would like to report that on the afternoon of Sunday 22 January, at around 1800, instead of pre-carnival festivities—since there is no communal magistrate to organize such festivities—a group took to the streets with bamboo instruments and many children singing: The uprooting is not yet over.

This is Yves-Marie Jasmin, Miragoane, for RTNH.

Students Protest Firing of School Officials

FL2301183689 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 20 Jan 89

[Text] We have learned that the students of the school in Petite Riviere de l'Artibonite rebelled [last] Wednesday against the town magistrate's decision to fire the school's director and vice principal because the school remained closed on the day of the strike [17 January]. Thus, the magistrate did not like this and fired both the director and the vice principal.

Meanwhile, here in Port-au-Prince, it is the teachers whom the Ministry of Education has accused of being responsible for the strike in the Port-au-Prince schools. The Ministry of Education said that there was no school in Port-au-Prince because the teachers did not show up for work.

Arrested Students Released in Cap-Haitien

FL2001003389 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 19 Jan 89

[Excerpts] In Cap-Haitien, the students of Lycee Philippe Guerrier yesterday organized a sit-in to obtain the release of two of their companions arrested last Monday after an antigovernment demonstration that was, as you will remember, dispersed by tear gas. Here is Jimmy Prophete:

[Prophete—live or recorded] Two students—(Gary Utilus), Third Class, Lycee Philippe Guerrier; and (Alix Joseph Dieudonne), Fourth Class, Primary Cycle, Ecole Sainte Marie—were arrested by the police following the antigovernment demonstration by students in Cap-Haitien on Monday 16 January 1989.

At around 0900 this morning, all the students of Lycee Philippe Guerrier, accompanied by the Coordinating Committee of the AEN, the Association of Students of the North, went to the police station to demand the release of their comrades, who were eventually released. The students gathered in front of the police station singing songs of solidarity, and were very firm and fearless.

After being released, (Gary Utilus) and (Alix Joseph Dieudonne) affirmed that they were very badly treated while they were in prison. Listen to the report from (Gary Alexis), a member of the AEN Coordinating Committee:

[Begin (Alexis) recording, in Creole] [Passage omitted] Then we went to the school, where the students made some statements. They said they were badly treated in prison. They said they were beaten and made to lie down in a place that was no good, and that they had to pay in order to be able to lie down somewhere cleaner. [passage omitted] [end recording] [passage omitted]

Union Press Release Denounces Education Ministry

FL2301180989 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 20 Jan 89

[Text] In a press release dated 19 January 1989, the National Confederation of Haitian Instructors [CNEH] denounces the negative attitude of Remy Zamor and Jean St Fort, minister and director general of national education, respectively.

The CNEH says that on Monday 16 January, both the minister and the director general refused to receive a CNEH delegation that went to see them to discuss the case of the school in Mirebalais.

The CNEH says that by this, the ministry is trampling the teachers' right to form unions. CNEH adds that when the ministry chooses to meet with teachers in their capacity as public officials, it is reestablishing the article of the law on public office that seeks to make an official the property of the government. The CNEH denounces this maneuver, which is aimed at breaking up solidarity among teachers in Haiti. The CNEH thus issues a call for unity and solidarity, so that union freedom may triumph.

The CNEH press release is signed by (Fritzner Hector) and (Carl Henri Guiteau).

Union Protests Magistrates 'Arbitrary' Action

FL2301182089 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 20 Jan 89

[Text] The Port-au-Prince Teachers Association denounces the arbitrary decision by Carrefour magistrate (Lavelanet Lindor) to close down the section in charge of education in Carrefour's communal schools on the pretext that the education section is concerning itself with political matters. According to (Jean-Henri Ady Pierre), assistant coordinator of the Port-au-Prince Teachers Association, the teachers in Carrefour's 12 communal schools recently went on strike to demand better working conditions, because some of these teachers make as little as $25 per month.

Many observers feel that this decision by the magistrate of Carrefour greatly resembles the behavior of many Haitian leaders, who never want the children of the masses to receive any instruction.

Democratic Unity Members Reportedly Arrested

FL2301174489 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1145 GMT 20 Jan 89

[Excerpts] Three members of the Confederation for Democratic Unity [KID] were arrested yesterday in front of the offices of the Port-au-Prince Police. Yves Sanon, (Alain Zephyr), and (Reynald Paul) are under arrest for assault and battery and committing aggression against a guard, said the person in charge of the Anti-Gang Service.

Two other KID members arrested earlier this week were released yesterday.

The police version of what happened contradicts the version put forth by the leaders of KID and the National Alliance of People's Organizations [ANOP]. They say these three ANOP members were arrested following an incident between ANOP member (Guerda Louis) and a detective [attache] from the police's Anti-Gang Service.

[Begin unidentified speaker recording, in Creole] When we got there, a detective who was there to take us to Lieutenant (Larochelle) subjected us to all kinds of pressure, all kinds of provocations. We did not respond, because as a popular organization our discipline (?forbade us to react to) his provocations. Then he stepped on a lady from the KASS [Coordinating Body of Associations of Cite Soleil] who was in the delegation that had gone to meet with Lt (Larochelle). The KASS woman merely asked him: Why did you do this to me? He pounced at her and slapped her, abused her, threw her (?down), and did all kinds of things to her. Then he left her alone, because Yves Sanon was yelling and trying to put a stop to this. He turned on Sanon and subjected him to the same abusive treatment as the lady. He tore Yves Sanon's clothes and all the other Criminals Investigations [Department, now known as the Investigations and Anti-Gang Service] detectives came at us, so they too could trample us. [end recording]

The arrest of the KID members was also echoed in Boston. The Haitian community living in that part of the United States protests and demands the release of these three ANOP members affiliated with KID. [sentence as heard]

[Begin unidentified speaker recording] [Passage omitted] We ask that General Prosper Avril's repressive government release these men unconditionally, without a lot of talk, and quickly—right away. This note is signed by several organizations and individuals: KOSA, Committee of Solidarity With Haiti [Komite Solidarite Avec Ayiti]; Caribbean Forum [Forum Karayib]; and (Frantz Muniti), a radio station; Philippe Geneus; Jean Geneus; Guy Laurent; AEAM, Association of Haitian Students in Massachusetts [Asosyasyon Etidyan Ayisyen nan Masachuset]; CEDRA, the Center for Information, Documentation, and Research on Haiti [Sant Enfomasyon, Dokimantasyon, Recherch sou Ayiti Toma]; Under the Home Pergola [An Ba Tonel Lakay]; and Yvon Lamour. [passage omitted] [end recording]

KASS Members in Custody, Going to Court

FL2001002189 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 19 Jan 89

[Excerpts] Officials of the ANOP, the National Alliance of People's Organizations, have learned that (Vesnel Jean-Francois) and Roland Pierre, the two members of KASS—the Coordinating Body of Associations of Cite Soleil, an ANOP affiliate—who, as you will remember, had been missing since 16 January, are in police custody at the Investigations and Anti-Gang Service. They got their information from the Investigations and Anti-Gang Service.

The two young men were reportedly arrested as they distributed leaflets calling on the population of Cite Soleil to mobilize against the high cost of living and the payment of taxes. According to KASS, the police authorities are accusing them of having committed subversive acts. A KID [Confederation for Democratic Unity] member explains:

[Begin unidentified speaker recording, in Creole] KASS is part of the Port-au-Prince unit of ANOP, which last Monday launched a campaign of mobilization against the macoutes, who have returned to shed the Haitian people's blood again, and against the high cost of living that is preventing the poor from living in Haiti. [passage omitted]

They are at the police station in Port-au-Prince. The police says they were committing acts of vandalism and subversion. This is what a delegation that just returned from the police station told us. [passage omitted]

They are supposed to send them to court at 1230. We will wait to see what happens. We will inform the press if they are tried; we will tell the press what they were accused of.

However, we members of the popular organizations are clearly asking for the police to explain what exactly they are calling acts of vandalism.

If a clearly identified organization puts out a watchword, signs a paper, and announces over the radio and television everything that it was saying, is this what they call an act of vandalism?

We also take this opportunity to ask if Prosper Avril himself, the government, is (?allergic) to any peaceful action that the Haitian people might choose to undertake in order to make its voice heard, its demands heard. [end recording]

That was a member of KID giving us some explanations regarding the imprisonment of these two KASS members, (Vesnel Jean-Francois) and Roland Pierre.

Arrest in Port-de-Paix Causes 'Problems'

FL2001003989 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 19 Jan 89

[Excerpt] In Port-de-Paix, four Haitian soldiers came from Port-au-Prince in a jeep to arrest an important Port-de-Paix merchant. We have learned that this caused a lot of problems. The population took to the streets. They were not at all in favor of this (?because)—we have learned—the Port-de-Paix military district barracks did not know anything about the arrest. Our area correspondent Theodore Megalos Axius will give us more details:

[Axius—live or recorded] On Wednesday, 18 January, four soldiers from the National Penitentiary in Port-au-Prince arrived in Port-de-Paix at around 1000. These four enlisted men were (Similier Sylaire), (Derone Rosemond), (Osmane Occulaire), and (Medor Francois).

Mrs (Leone Castain) had them come and arrest Gerard Jean-Baptiste, the proprietor of Holiday Beach Hotel, for debts.

The soldiers arrived in a Toyota jeep with private vehicle license plate number I-5969. The jeep was being driven by a civilian driver, (Jean P. Normil).

After the arrest, the jeep had a flat tire near the bus station. When the people in the neighborhood saw Gerard in the vehicle, they began to gather. When they found out that the soldiers had come all the way from Port-au-Prince without contacting any town authorities, either civilian or military, but had simply arrested the man, the population became furious. They let the air out of the other three tires.

When the news reached Capois La Mort Barracks, the commander had everyone in the Toyota jeep arrested. One of the soldiers managed to flee but later (?turned himself in to) the barracks.

The population smashed the jeep's windows. The vehicle is now at the barracks.

After the population calmed down, Gerard Jean-Baptiste was released. The police took the four soldiers, Mrs (Leone), and the driver to jail at the (?request) of the general headquarters of the military department of the northwest. [passage omitted]

Association Warns Against Hiring Foreigners

FL2001212989 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 19 Jan 89

[Text] The Association of Solderers and Skilled Workers [Asosyasyon Soude ak Ouvriye Kalifie] denounces what it terms the harmful attitude of certain industrialists who do not hesitate to hire foreigners to do electromechanical work—(?to build mechanical reservoirs), solder pipes, repair boats, and so forth—despite the fact that there are people in Haiti qualified to do this work.

The Association says that, considering that the Ministry of Interior and National Defense, the Ministry of Social Affairs, and the Immigration Office have taken joint measures to forbid industrialists to hire foreigners to do a number of jobs such as these, should these industrialists fail to respect the agreements signed and the measures taken, the Justice Department may be called upon to intervene.

In order to avoid having to take legal action against a number of people who may choose to ignore the measures, the association invites these people to consult with it at its headquarters when they need to have such work done.

Money Changers To Form Defense Association

FL2301191089 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 23 Jan 89

[Excerpts] For several years now, the capital has been overrun by people buying and selling U.S. dollars. [passage omitted] Every day, the money changers have to settle accounts with the people who lend them the money. After a day's work they split the profits with their bosses. [passage omitted]

In an interview with several vendors of U.S. dollars, these vendors told us that they intend to form an organization to defend their fellow money changers who are being subjected to criminal attacks from thieves.

There are now more than 100 young men selling and buying U.S. dollars in the streets of Port-au-Prince.

Jamaica

Manley on Election Debate, 'Biased' Coverage

FL2301224789 Bridgetown CANA in English 1950 GMT 23 Jan 89

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Jan 23, CANA—Jamaican opposition leader Michael Manley has rejected Prime Minister Edward Seaga's latest call for a pre-election debate, saying that the government still had not yet met all his pre-conditions for a square off.

Seaga Sunday night renewed his debate call in a letter to Manley, saying that the opposition leader's key condition of the naming an election date had been met. He had fulfilled the other conditions by sending Manley statements made last year and this month by mining minister, Hugh Hart, on the baxuite-alumina industry, as well as a parliamentary paper on the financing of the recovery from last September's hurricane.

In a campaign speech Sunday night, Manley, however, described Seaga's letter as "an almost comical attempt to restore his lagging political fortunes." Seaga had met the first condition of naming the February 9 election date "almost by default," waiting until he had no other constitutional option but to go to the poll, Manley claimed. But the two other criteria for the debate—equal and equitable coverage of the opposition by the state-owned Jamaica Broadcasting Corporation (JBC) and full disclosure of contracts and figures surrounding some of Jamaica bauxite deals—had not been met. "The biggest joke of all is whether he is really saying that three old presentations by Senator Hart could seriously speak to the chronic lack of information on the bauxite deals which are shrouded in mystery and international speculation," Manley told a rally in the east Kingston constituency he will contest.

He said the coverage of his party by the JBC-TV had deteriorated with the intensification of the election campaign, growing increasingly biased.

Meantime, the PNP (People's National Party) has told JBC news that it would not be invited to cover any more tours or walk-abouts by Manley, though they would we be invited to regular public meetings and news conferences. PNP communications consultant, Hartley Neita, said the decision was taken because of biased coverage of political skirmishes in the eastern parish of St Thomas on Thursday. The JBC television showed a PNP adherent coming out of a bus that was part of a motorcade and attacking a woman. The JBC was criticised by Manley, who claimed that the station had deliberately avoided showing his motorcade being attacked. In a news story on the incident, the station said it showed "available footage". Senior spokesmen at the station could not be contacted for further comment.

The PNP also claimed that there were several other incidents of biased reporting by the JBC, which is consistently criticised by the party in opposition.

Seaga, Manley Restate Commitment to Peace

FL2401154589 Bridgetown CANA in English 1528 GMT 24 Jan 89

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Jan 24, CANA—Jamaica's political leaders firmly restated their commitment to electoral peace Monday as they sought to tighten existing mechanisms to curtail campaign violence in the run up to the February 9 general election.

Prime Minister Edward Seaga and opposition leader Micheal Manley met afterwards, but there has yet been no announcement on new initiatives to ensure the peace during the campaign.

"I...extend this plea to all the nation, to all the electorate, to everyone, to ensure that the peace that we worked so hard to bring to this point should be maintained throughout this electoral period," said Seaga just before he sat down with Manley for a closed door meeting on the issue.

"As the campaign begins and the problems develop, I think that the most important thing is that we should maintain our faith in each other," Manley said. "If we lose faith in the will of the leadership to make thing then, in fact, nothing will work." [as received]

Earlier, both Seaga and Manley were among candidates contesting constituencies in Kingston and the administratively adjoined parish of St Andrew to sign a political code of conduct aimed at creating an atmosphere for political peace here. The two leaders, Seaga for his Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) and Manley for the Peoples National Party (PNP), first signed the agreement in August and are now encouraging signings by their candidates to bring the process to the grass roots level. Jamaicans have pinned their hope on the accord to prevent electioneering degenerating to the violent squabble of 1980 when hundreds died in the campaign for the election in which the PNP lost the government. The opposition boycotted general elections in 1983.

Manley and Seaga met in the wake of an increasing number of skirmishes between rival supporters as the campaign has intensified, but political analysts here say that the accord has been relatively successful. Instead of the guns of 1980, the skirmishes have largely been limited to an exchange of bottles and stones, usually when motorcades pass through strongholds of the opposing party. Several people have been injured in these outbreaks, but only one death has so far been reported as being possible linked to politics—a man who was shot dead in a volatile area of Spanish Town, 15 miles west of Kingston.

However, the PNP last week charged the JLP was undermining the accord by constant public harping on its weakness rather than demonstrating it was firmly behind the agreement—a view apparently implicit in Manley's call for faith by the leaders.

Both he and Seaga declared their faith:

Said Seaga: "Mr Manley, I think you and I can make this work and I think Jamaica expects us to make it work."

Manley responded: "I believe it will work. Jamaica needs it to work. Eddie, you and I will make it work."

Party officials said that talks between the camps was mainly to strengthen means of communications so as to deal with potential problems early and to decrease tensions.

Manley called on politicans who knew the trouble spots "to speak to the people in a direct way, a personal way, in an intimate way, when nobody else is listening, and ask them to behave."

Seaga said that he hoped that the tolerance and comradery displayed by the candidates would seep through to supporters, and that the signing of the accord would send the right signals.

"I hope that there will be no need for strong vibes to penetrate the reasoning of everyone," he said.

Netherlands Antilles

Customs Officials Find Over 77 Kg of Cocaine

FL2501155289 Hilversum International Service in English 1030 GMT 25 Jan 89

[Text] Customs officials on the island of Curacao in the Netherlands Antilles have found more than 77 kg of cocaine with a street value of some $6 million. The drug was stacked away in two suitcases that were on a flight from Guatemala to Amsterdam. Police have revealed no further details pending an investigation.

Solana on Foreign Policies, Relations
PA2601001689 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 14 Jan 89 pp 1, 6

[Article by Mario Alberto Reyes]

[Text] Foreign Relations Secretary Fernando Solana Morales admitted to the Chamber of Deputies that Mexico's image abroad—our shiny, respected image—has seriously deteriorated. He added that it is necessary to recover lost ground, strengthen the nation's sovereignty, protect our identity, and support the country's development.

Foreign Relations Secretary Solana addressed the party representatives who comprise the Foreign Relations Commission. He admitted that for various reasons—which he did not specify—Mexico's image abroad has deteriorated, because it is not the same image the country had 8, 16, or 24 years ago. "We must recover" Mexico's image, not only for the sake of our dignity, but because it is a "matter of national pragmatism," Solana said.

He added: Other countries should not only see the negative aspects but also the positive and beautiful aspects of Mexico. One of the fundamental goals of President Carlos Salinas de Gortari's foreign policy is the improvement of our image abroad, Solana noted.

Solana announced he will tour Central America this month to resume Mexico's dialogue with the region's foreign ministers and to continue the search for peace.

During his preliminary statement, prior to the legislators' questions, Solana said his secretariat was reorganized to prevent excessive workloads on certain deputy secretaries and to better handle our foreign relations. He said this is why he reorganized the deputy secretaries' departments.

Referring to the main goals of Mexico's foreign policy for the next 6 years, Solana highlighted the importance of protecting and strengthening our sovereignty, which implies our national and territorial integrity. He said Mexico must actively participate in world forums and in commercial - economic negotiations.

Likewise, Mexico's foreign policy must support the country's overall development, Solana said. The foreign secretary added: Mexico must grow again and resume its development, because economic growth has decreased in recent years. It is necessary to make considerable progress in social development, which has even lost ground in recent years. There must be a better distribution of our income, and all Mexicans must have a greater participation in our political development.

Solana noted that Mexico, one of the 160 independent countries in the world, is unique. "This is not a vain or patriotic slogan," he said, only a report on contemporary political events. Solana added: The issue of the Mexican people's national identity must be included in our foreign policy. We must protect our national identity and publicize it abroad.

"We want to be sovereign and independent, but we do not want to stop being what we are," he asserted, adding: We must change and make progress, but we must protect our identity.

The foreign secretary reported that one of the basic goals of our foreign policy is better protecting the Mexican people's rights and interests abroad. We must not leave our fellow citizens alone, and it will be necessary to strengthen the offices in the Foreign Secretariat that are in charge of protecting the Mexican people abroad, he said.

Solana added: The Foreign Secretariat is training personnel who will look after Mexicans in other countries. It will also strengthen our consulates by creating groups of lawyers familiar with other nations' laws so they may adequately protect their fellow citizens abroad.

Likewise, he said that one of the Foreign Secretariat's priorities will be a greater international cooperation in everything that concerns the community of nations and mankind as a whole. We must cooperate for the sake of peace, development, and culture, and we must take an active stand on everything, Solana added.

During the question-and-answer period, PRI Legislator Victor Hugo Celaya demanded better attention be given to border problems. Solana replied that Mexico's border issues with the United States, Guatemala, and Belize will be given special attention.

Authentic Party of the Mexican Revolution [PARM] Deputy Vicente Luis Coca Alvarez asked the foreign minister about his views on the foreign debt renegotiation. The foreign minister admitted that this is a critical problem; and details of the negotiation will be revealed in due time. It will not be an easy negotiation, he added.

Fernando Solana Morales also referred to the new international economic order and said that poor results have been attained so far.

Also, PRI Deputies Armando Hernandez Montano and Enrique Martinez Martinez requested the foreign minister's support for a new Fiscal and Immigration post in Mexicali, Baja California, because the current level of activities has rendered the service insufficient. The official promised to intervene on their behalf.

In addition, Solana Morales admitted that Mexican immigration officials are guilty of abusing people who cross the border, even charging them $20 to cross into the United States. This must be corrected and consulates will be strengthened to help Mexicans who live beyond our border.

Popular Socialist Party [PPS] Deputy Jesus Lujan emphasized that it is not enough to admit that Mexico's image abroad has deteriorated. We must fulfill with actions our pledge to restore that image because we have lost, in many ways, our foremost position in the international struggle. We have moved away from our position of support for Nicaragua and the Salvadorans.

The foreign minister answered the PPS legislator that he plans to answer demands with actions.

Further, Solana Morales stated to PRI Deputy Javier Santillan and PARM Deputy Patricio Estevez that it is not the right time for Mexico to establish a common market with the United States and Canada. It is better to hold multilateral negotiations, and to establish closer relations with other Latin American and Asian nations, such as Japan and the PRC.

However, according to the deputies, there were no specific answers when the PARM and PPS deputies asked about Mexico's position on the Latin American countries' unified position on the foreign debt, drug trafficking, electoral rights of Mexicans living abroad, and actions against those who take their dollars abroad.

Solana Morales said that President Salinas de Gortari has promised to fight against drug trafficking. He added that Mexico has encouraged and sponsored mechanisms of coordination and support to Latin America on the foreign debt problem, but Mexico will negotiate its foreign debt independently.

PMS Deputy Amalia Garcia's questions about the resumption of Mexican oil shipments to Nicaragua, the establishment of relations with the state of Palestine, and Mexico's silence concerning the development of chemical weapons received no answer.

Reporters surrounded Solana Morales after the meeting and asked him to specify what had diminished Mexico's image abroad. The foreign minister said he would issue no statements because, first, he had already talked too much and, second, because "my sources will hang me." He meant the journalists who cover the Foreign Relations Secretariat.

Foreign Secretary Begins Central American Tour

PA2501134289 Mexico City XHTV Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 25 Jan 89

[Text] Mexican Foreign Secretary Fernando Solana began a Central American tour in Guatemala today. Solana is visiting Central America to strengthen political and economic relations with the region.

Foreign Secretary Solana was welcomed by Guatemalan Foreign Minister Alfonso Cabrera and Mexican Embassy officials at the Guatemala City International Airport.

Solana first met with Guatemalan Vice President Roberto Carpio Nicolle and then with Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo at the presidential palace.

Tonight Solana will inaugurate a Mexican art exhibit and will attend a dinner party in his honor hosted by the Guatemalan Government.

* L. Meyer Detects Loss of Hope by Citizens

32480049 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 28 Nov 88 pp 1-A, 28-A

[Lorenzo Meyer Commentary: "An Old Promise, Democracy"]

[Text] One of the things that lent vitality to the Mexican political system that is now dying was the renewal of hope every 6 years. The hopes were almost never fulfilled, of course, and moreover, as with everything in Mexican society, the intensity of the feeling was always poorly distributed: it was stronger among the elites and weaker among the popular classes.

In spite of it all, the phenomenon was real and turned out to be very useful in maintaining stability. In contrast, the system that is now being born from amid the ashes of economic disaster lacks this old allure. Nowadays, a very large group of Mexicans—probably a majority—harbors very few illusions about the new 6-year term, about the immediate future.

There are sound reasons for the current lack of collective hope. On the one hand, there is nothing in the neoliberal (or neoconservative) economic agenda of Miguel de la Madrid-Carlos Salinas that augurs an improvement in the material situation of the popular and middle classes in the short term. For these groups and in the best-case scenario the only realistic hope is modest and long term. Unfortunately, in the culture of the popular classes, which is also called the culture of poverty, as Oscar Lewis so aptly described it in his day, the long term does not exist. Only the middle classes can defer current consumption for the sake of the future, but they do this enthusiastically only when there have confidence in the future, and today they do not.

If we leave aside speeches and look only at deeds, Mexican society has already realized that the economic policy agenda that has been pursued without change since late 1982 is designed, first, to focus the bulk of the government's energies on supporting and promoting the success of the efforts of the private producers who are directly or indirectly involved in export. Today as never before in the past 48 years the dice are loaded in favor of big capital, that is to say, in favor of interests such as those represented by Legorreta and his famous 300 traveling companions. If the technocrats' idea of giving the world market the responsibility of allocating resources in the Mexican economy is ultimately realized, profits will be further concentrated at the top and only little by little will trickle down to wage earners, as has

been the case in Korea or Taiwan, to mention two examples that our government would like us to emulate. In short, it does not take a great mind to realize that the slogan that the current ruling class (the one that is leaving and the one that is entering, because deep down there are one and the same) has not announced but is practicing is this: private accumulation first and then social justice, and only when it does not harm business confidence or international competitiveness.

But the 6-year renewal of hope has been destroyed not only by the brutality of the economic agenda of Miguel de la Madrid-Carlos Salinas but also by the rapidity with which the new government team that is about to assume executive power has contradicted its campaign promises. In fact, the inconsistency between what the young technocrats are saying and doing has been demonstrated even before they have officially taken on the functions of government, which although it is not surprising is disappointing.

Who does not feel personally cheated when recalling statements like those made just a few months ago by the then PRI presidential candidate in Puebla? As we will recall, on that occasion he said, speaking of the so-called "challenge of democracy": "We are most certainly going to respect citizens' votes; we are going to carry out clean, verifiable elections. We are going to convince through organization and platform. We will defend our triumphs, but we will accept our defeats. We will act with responsibility..."

These words were not much different from the ones that Miguel de la Madrid had uttered as a candidate 6 years before. Nevertheless, after 6 July or after what has just happened in Tabasco, one cannot say that there has been any change whatsoever in the verifiability of the electoral process with respect to the near or distant past. PRI remains just as reluctant to acknowledge its defeats as it was 3 years ago or when it was born in 1929, just as given to seeking victory along crooked paths as it was when it confronted Jose Vasconcelos.

The promise of democracy, respect for the will of the citizens and commitment to responsible action is an old promise in Mexico. A promise that the revolutionary governments (1920-1940) and the post-revolutionary governments (1940-1988) did not, of course, keep. In both periods power was exercised in an authoritarian manner. Nonetheless, and we must acknowledge and understand this, violence was not the hallmark of this authoritarianism, as indeed it was of others that emerged and disappeared (some of them at least) during these years on the continent. The reason why political stability and authoritarianism have been able to coexist in Mexico since 1929, albeit not without tensions, is that the authoritarianism has retained a certain degree of legitimacy, which was precisely the legacy that the Mexican Revolution bequeathed it. This legitimacy was based on acceptance by the rulers and the ruled of the validity of the objectives of social justice that the regime said it was pursuing and, above all, on the populist policy that it actually pursued. In a work presented at Columbia University, Blanca Heredia has called this phenomenon a rational legitimacy as a function of objectives that has enabled Mexico's political elite since the time of Carranza to successfully replace the alternative legitimacy: that which in other countries arises as a result of an electoral struggle and victory at the ballot box, in other words, legal-rational legitimacy.

When the administration of Miguel de la Madrid altered the essence of the economic model and attacked the traditional populist nature of the regime as illegitimate (during this presidential term populism was described as the syndrome of a terrible evil), it dried up the source of long-standing revolutionary legitimacy. To replace what it had just destroyed it proposed an alternative more in keeping with the new economic model, none other than the alternative that emerges from the ballot box: the right to govern based on the results of a verifiable election with true competition among parties. Nevertheless, the promise was short-lived. After the electoral victories of PAN [National Action Party] in the north in 1983, a decision was made to resort to unverifiable victories and to maintain the traditional PRI monopoly of power.

Very few people know today exactly what forces went into action to prevent the election on 6 July from having a clear-cut, credible result, but what happened nationwide and was then repeated in Tabasco represents the ongoing contradiction into which the regime has gotten itself by spurring economic change without wanting to pay the political consequences.

It is worthwhile pausing here to ask this question: If the promise had not been broken in Chihuahua in 1985 and broken again on 6 July, what sort of political system would we have now? I would venture to respond that in spite of everything there would be a serious chance that PRI would remain the strongest party, albeit based on a more modest electoral victory than the official figures imposed in August. If this were the case, we would be experiencing the onset of an exclusive democracy whose essence would be this: respect for the will of the people as expressed at the ballot box but allowing basically the market to apportion social wealth and taking the central responsibility for resource allocation away from the state. In other words, Mexico would be heading along the road that is being taken today by Great Britain in dismantling the so-called "welfare state" or by Spain, where a Socialist government is battling the unions so that its industry can compete with its European Common Market partners.

The exclusive democracy that the technocrats of industrial reconversion promised to us but did not deliver is not a system that fills with delight the spirit of the working classes or those who are interested in substantive, that is to say, social justice. Yet the alternative to this system that has been taking shape in Mexico after what happened on 6 July is the emergence of an unvarnished authoritarianism, without populism, an exclusive

authoritarianism. If this is the case, the political elite is, of course, jeopardizing stability in its zeal to change without changing, to transform the economy and society without transforming politics I hope that I am wrong in my diagnosis, but I think that even if I am, it is worthwhile reflecting on what is at stake today.

'La Quina' Reportedly Ordered Torres Murder

FL2501224589 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2004 GMT 25 Jan 89

[Text] Mexico City, 25 Jan (NOTIMEX)—Joaquin Hernandez Galicia, La Quina, will also have to answer to the murder of oil workers' leader Oscar Torres Pancardo. Hernandez Galicia is said to be the intellectual perpetrator of the crime. This was reported by Javier Coello Trejo, deputy prosecutor of narcotics investigations. He said Ramon Mata Vazquez, one of La Quina's bodyguards, arrested in the northern city of Monterrey when he was transporting a marijuana shipment, stated that he and Mauro Cruz Estrada killed Torres Pancardo in a clash with Torres Pancardo's armed men, following Hernandez Galicia's orders.

The event took place on 8 September 1983 during an apparent traffic incident as Torres Pancardo returned from Mexico City where he attended a trade union meeting. Torres Pancardo was on his way to Poza Rica where he was mayor.

Coello Trejo said during a news conference that a federal roads policeman has been arrested in connection with this homicide. At the time, the policeman agreed to change the report which was turned over to the appropriate officials. Dr Ofelia Osorio was also arrested. She took part in the forgery of the aforementioned report.

This new charge brought against Hernandez Galicia is added to those charges already mentioned: the murder of Gerardo Antonio Arrioja Zamora, public prosecutor federal agent, illegal possession of weapons that are used exclusively by the Army and Navy, and for attacks on individuals [resistencia de particulares].

Coello Trejo said all those people who have covered up Torres Pancardo's murder will also be turned over to the authorities. Investigations on this continue. Coello Trejo stated Mata Vazquez was with Jose Roberto Lagos Quintero, Benito Martinez, Rodolfo Ortiz Castelan, and Gregoria Sanchez Juarez when he was apprehended. Mauro Cruz Estrada and Ramon Mata Vazquez will be brought before a criminal judge charged with homicide and crimes against health by illegally transporting drugs.

'Leftist,' 'Nationalist' Forces Plan New Party

PA2501235689 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 22 Jan 89 p 4

[Article by Nestor Martinez]

[Text] The Movement Toward Socialism (MAS) decided yesterday to become "a task force" to form the Party of the Democratic Revolution [Partido de la Revolucion Democratica—PRD], which will unite a wide range of leftist forces.

During a meeting at the UNAM [National Autonomous University of Mexico] School of Economy, the MAS representatives insisted the PRD should include leftist forces as well as the "nationalist" forces that surfaced during the past elections. Therefore, they explained, the party cannot be considered a leftist organization.

Ricardo Pascoe Pierce said MAS will implement a program that reflects the PRD's ideas and which includes three basic points: To organize the mass movement that was evident on 6 July; to create a pluralist party in which various factions can express themselves; and—the most complicated point, which he explained "will not take place overnight"—to destroy the ruling party's regime in order to attain power.

The former legislator did not rule out the possibility that within the PRD there might be a confrontation between existing leftist political organizations, but he said this is precisely the type of confrontation that should be channeled in order to discuss all ideas.

He admitted that since September, the forces of the movement that was evident during the elections have been "considerably disrupted." This, he explained, is why MAS must unite the forces.

"I must clearly explain that the PRD will be a pluralist party in which all its factions—whether they be social or political organizations—will be able to express their feelings," Pascoe Pierce emphasized.

Pedro Penaloza, Adolfo Gilly, Antonio Santos, and Imanol Ordorika, among others, attended this meeting that discussed two main points: The MAS positions concerning the national situation, and the PRD.

Pemex To Apply 'Drastic Restriction Program'

PA2301165389 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 17 Jan 89 p 15

[Summary] During 1989, Pemex will implement this decade's most drastic financial restriction program because it has become impossible to continue an expansion policy that is affected by a drop in international hydrocarbon prices and because of Pemex' small budget (13.0557 trillion pesos), which happens to be virtually the same as 1988.

According to its 1989 operations program, Pemex plans to reduce exploration activities 63 percent although hydrocarbon reserves have dropped 2.5 billion barrels in the past 6 years.

Pemex will reduce daily crude production by 16,000 barrels and daily sales of mixtures abroad by 50,000 barrels. It will extract 2.488 million barrels and export 1.25 million barrels of that daily.

Petroleum authorities also decided to reduce daily natural gas production this year to 3.406 billion cubic feet from 3.554 billion cubic feet in 1988.

The production of refined products will also drop. In 1988, 1.45 million barrels were refined daily, compared to only 1.428 million this year.

The operational program for 1989 only calls for a slight increase in petrochemical production, from 38,570 to 42,367 tons.

Oil Prices Increase in Dec

PA2201134989 Mexico City EL NACIONAL in Spanish 13 Jan 89 p 1

[Summary] The price of Mexican crude oil exports increased more than $2 a barrel in December 1988.

Pemex reported that in December the average price of Isthmus oil sold on the American Continent for $13.93 a barrel; Maya oil sold for $10.52 a barrel; and Olmec oil sold for $15.24 a barrel. November prices were $11.62, $9.21, and $12.90 a barrel, respectively.

Meanwhile, Pemex stated that in 1988 it had exported an average of 1.305 million barrels of crude oil a day.

Police Destroy Poppy Fields, Seize Marijuana

PA2001043089 Mexico City XHTV Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 19 Jan 89

[Summary] Federal agents from the Attorney General's Office destroyed six poppy plantations covering a 3,000-square-meter area in the Plata Mountains in Guerrero State.

In a separate drug operation launched in Tijuana, Baja California, police agents confiscated 2 tons of marijuana and arrested 16 suspected drug traffickers.

Marijuana Seized in Four States

PA2201214589 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 15 Jan 89 p 22

[Summary] The Federal Judicial Police yesterday carried out seven operations against drug traffickers, seizing 4,907 kg of marijuana and arresting 20 people in Michoacan, Sonora, Oaxaca, and Guerrero states. Federal agents also destroyed 93 poppy fields planted on 60,150 square meters of land in Guerrero and 22 marijuana fields planted over an area covering 13,400 square meters in Sinaloa. The largest of the seven operations took place in Morelia, Michoacan, where Joaquin Gomez Gamino, Jose Gomez Sanchez, Clemente Garcia Rangel, and Hector Gutierrez Bastida were arrested with 1,955 kg of marijuana.

Poppy Plantation Destroyed

PA2401000189 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 16 Jan 89 p 43-A

[Summary] The Mexican Attorney General's Office has reported that on 15 January, the Federal Judicial Police destroyed 20,000 square meters of poppy seeds. The plantation was located in Huitzilac Municipality, 30 km from Cuernavaca, Morelos State. The report adds that there were between 15 to 20 poppy plants per square meter.

Costa Rica

Sandinist Government Denies Airspace Violation

PA2501014989 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 24 Jan 89

[Text] During the coordination meeting between Costa Rica and Nicaragua at La Cruz on the border today, the Sandinist government again denied that three Nicaraguan helicopters violated Costa Rican airspace.

This is the fourth such meeting on the same topic. An analysis of recent border events, however, took up all the time at the three previous meetings.

The flight of three camouflaged helicopters into Costa Rican airspace on Wednesday and the case of a Nicaraguan youth who was shot to death while attempting to wade the San Juan River into Costa Rican territory on Friday were discussed at this fourth meeting.

On denying that Sandinist helicopters entered Costa Rican airspace, 5th Military Zone Commander Roberto Calderon said last week's events are the result of contra actions in the area. In addition, the Costa Rican technical security commission, headed by Marino Sagol, a senior official of the Security Ministry, reiterated Costa Rica's complaint over the flight.

As for the death of the youth at Las Tiricias, Calderon said the incident occurred in Nicaraguan territory. No new date for a coordination meeting was set during today's meeting at La Cruz.

1988 Exports Increase 9.7 Percent Over 1987

PA2501204789 San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 17 Jan 89 p 5

[Summary] According to authorities from the Foreign Trade Directorate of the Ministry of Economy, Industry, and Commerce (MEIC), 1988 exports showed an increase of 9.7 percent over 1987. The MEIC Statistics and Census Directorate said this information is based on figures from January to October of each year, which showed that the increase in exports was a direct result of a 29.2-percent increase in nontraditional exports. The export of goods classified as traditional dropped 3.6 percent.

El Salvador

Opinions on FMLN-FDR Proposal Reported

Duarte Statement

PA2601045289 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 26 Jan 89

[Report by Marco Antonio Guevara]

[Excerpts] Immediately after this afternoon's plenary session of the Legislative Assembly, President Jose Napoleon Duarte, accompanied by other members of the Executive Branch, went for the first time to the Supreme Court of Justice to sanction and promulgate a reform to the electoral code. [passage omitted]

What President Duarte sanctioned has been promulgated as Decree 170, which was approved this afternoon by the Legislative Branch. Earlier the Legislative Assembly decided to annul Decree 132—the decree that Duarte had refused to sanction and promulgate. This is probably the first time that such an act has occurred, with the three state branches giving legal validity to a decree. It will be in effect in 8 days. [passage omitted]

[Begin Duarte recording] I asked that the decree be drafted in a way that would be acceptable to all. I also asked that it be completely legitimate. [end recording]

When asked for his opinion on the FMLN peace proposal, the president said that it contains some positive changes of attitude but noted that it is impossible to extend the presidential term of office by a single day. He also said that a minority cannot force the majority to violate the constitutional order that the people achieved when they went to vote under fire.

[Begin Duarte recording] At 1000 on 1 June I must hand over power to the next president of the Republic. My term of office expires the night before, at midnight. I am not going to stay one day more in the Presidency, so this document that proposes that I remain in the Presidency is neither valid nor acceptable at all.

Regarding the rest of the document, it has introduced a very important point. For the first time in history, the FMLN has accepted that there is a method other than violence for reaching power: the democratic and electoral method. The document has made an electoral proposal. It is not a peace proposal. Unfortunately, the proposal is loaded with unconstitutional propositions, which makes it difficult for a party or a person analyzing the proposal to resolve the problems it raises.

This is not a task for the Executive Branch because the proposal calls for changes in the Constitution, so it is a matter for the Legislative Branch. The proposal talks about unconstitutional activities, and the Supreme Court handles that area. Therefore, it is obvious that the presidents of those two institutions must have their say on this. [end recording]

Duarte said that on receiving the FMLN document, he sent copies to the political parties because they would have to make statements on it. He noted that the Constitution can be changed but there is an established process for doing that. He also said that the electoral laws have been accepted by the political parties participating in the democratic arena, including the Democratic Convergence.

ARENA Reaction

PA2501233289 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 25 Jan 89

[Interview with Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA) presidential candidate Alfredo Cristiani by unidentified reporters; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Cristiani] We see no reason to violate the Constitution by postponing the elections, or to accept the other violations of the Constitution proposed in the recent FMLN document, such as articles 211, 87, 88, and 154, concerning the alternation of the government, the timing of elections, and the role of the Armed Forces.

If the FMLN guerrillas want peace in El Salvador, as they claim, then they should prove it by stating clearly that they will recognize and acknowledge the 19 March elections as the expression of the Salvadoran people's will through a practical process—elections.

The people do not want a mere 2 days of truce before and after the elections. If the FMLN is seeking peace, it should declare its decision to accept a permanent and verifiable cease-fire. We could ask the Organization of American States, which recently held a meeting in El Salvador, to guarantee the cease-fire. Why? Because this is the first time the FMLN has spoken about acknowledging the electoral process. If they have the goodwill to do this, then the FMLN should declare a cease-fire and stop threatening and killing mayors and stop intimidating the people from voting and getting their election cards. They should cease their destruction, which keeps the people in a state of uncertainty, and they should do it now.

[Reporter] A cease-fire would also have to be implemented by the Armed Forces.

[Cristiani] Of course.

[Reporter] You are more or less calling for an immediate cease-fire.

[Cristiani] The people do not want to see murders and destruction 2 days after the elections. If a cease-fire is observed by the FMLN, the Armed Forces would have no reason for carrying out operations. The Armed Forces are constitutionally responsible for reacting to FMLN violence. If there is no violence then the Armed Forces would not have to engage in operations to comply with their constitutional responsibilities.

[Reporter] What would happen with the FMLN proposal if the rebels do observe a cease-fire? Would their proposal be considered or would they just be proving that they can abide by a permanent cease-fire?

[Cristiani] No, what I am trying to say is that obviously the FMLN is being represented in the democratic process. The note they have made available to the political parties makes this very clear. They are represented by the Democratic Convergence [CD]. In the framework of the national peace proposal, they—call them FMLN-FDR or CD—are simply one of the sectors of the nation, a minority sector, mind you, so there is no reason to draft a national peace proposal that suits only them. All Salvadorans, through their legal political representatives, must participate in drafting a national peace proposal to allow them to live in peace.

[Reporter] In other words, ARENA does not accept any of the points of the FMLN proposal?

[Cristiani] The very first point of their proposal calls for a violation of the Constitution and therefore it is impossible to continue reading that document. This is why we have said that the document contains only one new element: their statement that they could recognize the electoral process. However, according to them, this process violates the Constitution.

This is why we say that if they truly want peace in El Salvador, and they are not just making propaganda to make people believe they are open-minded, then they should realize that 19 March is almost here. Let us have free elections on 19 March. Let the people vote without pressure or problems. Why violate the Constitution?

FMLN Representative on 'Counteroffensive'

PA2501042189 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 24 Jan 89

[Report by Ramon Chong]

[Text] The present state of the Salvadoran conflict points toward the regime's defeat and the rapid collapse of the counterinsurgency policy promoted by the U.S. Government. The preceding statement was issued by AALAPSO on the international day of solidarity with El Salvador, which was celebrated recently. Representatives of political and revolutionary organizations and diplomats accredited in Havana reaffirmed their support of the Salvadoran people's cause and the struggle for liberation.

Farid Handal, the FMLN-FDR representative to Cuba, stated the following on this topic:

[Begin recording] The FMLN—Salvador's revolutionary forces—has started the phase we are calling strategic counteroffensive. The initiation of the strategic counteroffensive phase is not based on a whim, nor has it been a decision of the revolutionary leadership. It is based on the acceptance that there is a will to accelerate military actions and the struggle. The decision to start this phase was also made because the political and military defeats that the regime's counterinsurgency plan suffered have created political openings. In the past we had not entered the political arena frequently. Now, however, we are

inmersed in the electoral process and we are taking part in the political debate, but without making any electoral commitments. [end recording]

The Salvadoran revolutionary struggle has made important quantitative and qualitative advances in its insurrectional strategy during the past year. The rebels participated in an unprecedented number of actions, and their counteroffensive resulted in the death of approximately 8,000 government soldiers during 1988. The rebels operate in all 14 Salvadoran departments.

Venceremos Reports 15-21 Jan Casualties

PA2501143689 [Editorial Report] (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador at 0000 GMT on 23 January carries 10 minutes of reports on recent FMLN military actions.

According to the first report, "the Army has suffered 35 casualties during the last few hours in clashes throughout the country." The report adds: "In addition, guerrilla units attacked enemy positions near Metapan, inflicting eight casualties."

Reporting on military actions carried out between 15 and 21 January, Venceremos says that in those 7 days, "the FMLN has inflicted a total of 301 casualties on the puppet army. There were 62 puppet army casualties in 8 ambushes in the last 7 days." The rebel station adds that among the 301 casualties were "two lieutenants, one pilot, one Atlacatl Battalion group commander who was seriously injured in Chalatenango, three 2d lieutenants, two sergeants, three 2d sergeants, and two corporals."

Venceremos says the FMLN destroyed 52 power poles from 15 to 21 January. During that week, the FMLN also attacked a Treasury Police station and bombed the houses of three Army officers in San Salvador.

Reporting an attack by the Anastacio Aquino Paracentral Front, Venceremos states, "At 0030 on 22 January, FMLN guerrillas attacked [word indistinct] Battalion troops from the 5th Infantry Brigade on patrol in (?Las Maravillas) hamlet near the [word indistinct] River in Santa Clara jurisdiction, San Vicente Department. During the 1-hour clash, our forces inflicted 12 casualties, including a sergeant, a platoon commander, and a radio operator. The following equipment was seized by our forces: 2 M-79 grenade launchers, 8 grenades, 1 PRC-77 radio, 15 knapsacks, 1 M-16 rifle, 4 field kits, 100 cartridges, military uniforms, and other materiel. Our forces suffered one wounded."

Guatemala

Army, Guerrillas Fighting Near Mexican Border

PA2401163389 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1322 GMT 24 Jan 89

[Text] Guatemala City, 24 Jan (ACAN-EFE)—Colonel Luis Arturo Isaacs, spokesman for the Guatemalan Armed Forces, reported yesterday that the Guatemalan Army and guerrillas are fighting along the Mexican border, near Tajumulco volcano.

In an interview with ACAN-EFE, the military chief admitted Tajumulco volcano in San Marcos Department, 253 km southwest of Guatemala City, is a "bastion" for the guerrillas because it is close to the Mexican border.

According to the Guatemalan Army, the guerrillas are in that area as a result of the Armed Forces offensive. The guerrillas also want to withdraw into Mexico, because it would make it easier for "some guerrillas to go to Cuba."

Guatemalan radio stations claim the Armed Forces are using helicopter gunships and engaging in "harsh combat" with the guerrillas.

Col Isaacs admitted it has been "pretty difficult" to fight the guerrillas in that area, because it "is planted with homemade booby traps" similar to the ones used by the FMLN in the war in El Salvador.

"We do not want to kill guerrillas; we want them to join the democratic process," Isaacs said, admitting that "it was more difficult to fight the guerrillas when the Army was in power."

He emphasized, however, "that we will stay in the mountains even if the guerrillas drop their weapons" and accept amnesty.

The Army spokesman reiterated that the Guatemalan guerrillas have been trained in Nicaragua and Cuba, but he did not specify how many fighters have traveled to those countries or the type of training they have received.

Isaac stated the rebels have 600-700 armed men, and he admitted that in the 1980's [as received]—when the guerrillas numbered 8,000—the guerrillas controlled three important departments in Guatemala they wanted to "liberate."

The guerrillas include three Marxist groups and are considered the oldest and most enigmatic in Latin America. They were created in 1960 and continue to operate—although they are not as belligerent—in most of the departments of the Guatemalan plateau.

Honduras

Guerrillas Kill Former Gen Alvarez Martinez

PA2501172389 Tegucigalpa Radio America in Spanish 1640 GMT 25 Jan 89

[Report by David Romero from the Florencia neighborhood in Tegucigalpa—live]

[Text] Radio America listeners, despite the lack of information in this neighborhood, one of the bodyguards of General Gustavo Alvarez Martinez [former Honduran Armed Forces commander] has just confirmed to us that

Gen Alvarez Martinez died in a terrorist attack that took place about 30 minutes ago. The attack was claimed by the Cinchonero People's Liberation Movement [MPL].

Two people were killed—Gen Alvarez Martinez' driver or bodyguard and Gen Gustavo Alvarez Martinez. The general's badly damaged car is here in the Florencia neighborhood.

Radio America listeners, the Training Hospital's emergency room has just confirmed that Gen Gustavo Adolfo Alvarez Martinez has died. He is remembered for the infamous dictatorial period from 1980 to 1984 and was accused of masterminding the disappearance of several people. He died on the way to the hospital. The MPL claimed responsibility for the murder. We repeat: Gen Alvarez Martinez and his driver were killed approximately 30 minutes ago. He was driven in a private car to the hospital, and he died on the way there.

Rebels Claim Responsibility

PA2501172689 Tegucigalpa Radio America in Spanish 1645 GMT 25 Jan 89

[Text] We are going to repeat the communique issued by the Cinchonero People's Movement, MPL, about 15 minutes ago, in which the group says it murdered General Alvarez Martinez.

[Begin unidentified speaker recording] The murder of henchman Gustavo Alvarez Martinez in southern Florencia neighborhood was carried out by the MPL. We will provide fuller details later. [end recording]

Communique on Alvarez' Death

PA2501221489 Tegucigalpa Radio America in Spanish 2100 GMT 25 Jan 89

[Communique issued by the Cinchonero People's Movement in Honduras on 25 January]

[Text] To the Honduran people and the world:

In accordance with our revolutionary duty to avenge the Honduran and Central American martyrs who have fallen in the struggle for the total liberation of our homeland, the Cinchonero People's Movement, MPL, hereby announces that today, as part of the Martyrs of the Honduran Revolution operation, it has executed Gustavo Alvarez Martinez, retired general and former Armed Forces commander.

For us, the Cinchoneros, this soldier not only filled many homes of worthy patriots with mourning, grief, and tears, but also continued to support and participate in the dirty war, the low-intensity war that even caused casualties in the repressive Honduran Armed Forces, a truly disgraceful power. Diminished by mental illness, this psychopathic general was the enemy of patriots and revolutionaries and a direct participant in the execution of many of them. He attempted to mock the people's justice by pretending to be a peace-loving and repenting Christian.

In honor of the memory of hundreds of murdered and missing Honduran patriots, of Central Americans, and of citizens of other countries who have fallen in our country, our organization reiterates its determination to struggle on for their cause.

The execution of Gustavo Alvarez Martinez was assigned to our heroic Lempira Command.
Long live our martyrs, their ideas, and their practices!
Death to the military dictatorship and to the false Honduran democracy!
Let us all organize better to wage the people's revolutionary war!
Those who know how to die always win!
The armed people will win!
[Signed] National Command of the Cinchonero People's Movement, Honduras, Central America
[Dated] 25 January 1989

Armed Forces Communique

PA2501232989 Tegucigalpa Radio America in Spanish 2237 GMT 25 Jan 89

["Official communique" issued by the Armed Forces Public Relations Directorate on 25 January in Tegucigalpa]

[Text] The Honduran Armed Forces Public Relations Directorate, with deep sorrow, advises the public of the following:

1. This morning at 1015, Division General Gustavo Adolfo Alvarez Martinez, former Honduran Armed Forces commander, was vilely assassinated as the result of a terrorist attack.

2. This criminal action occurred while Gen Alvarez Martinez was driving his private vehicle, accompanied by another person, from his home in Florencia neighborhood toward the avenue that connects with Suyapa Boulevard.

3. The criminals intercepted the vehicle driven by Gen Alvarez Martinez and fired an automatic weapon several times, killing Gen Alvarez Martinez and his driver. The criminals took off toward an unknown destination.

4. The Honduran Armed Forces deeply deplore the tragic assassination of Gen Alvarez Martinez, and express the strongest condemnation of the extremist forces who seek to sow terror and bloodshed in our country.

5. For the sake of harmony and social coexistence in Honduras, the Honduran Armed Forces will act in accordance with the law against persons who, violating

legal norms and respect for human life, seek to disrupt the tranquillity and democratic stability of our country, and the Armed Forces urge Honduran society to join in these efforts.
Tegucigalpa, 25 January 1989

TIEMPO Expects 'More Flexible' U.S. Policy

PA2601023389 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 23 Jan 89 p 6

[Editorial: "Return to Bipartisanship and a Common Will"]

[Text] With an impassioned appeal for unity and a return to the "old bipartisanship," George Bush was sworn in as the 41st U.S. President on 21 January.

Although Bush, like his predecessor, is a member of the Republican Party, and was vice president in the Reagan administration, he is expected to make several changes in the U.S. policy in Central America, such as making it more flexible and perhaps softening prejudices.

If we examine Bush's inaugural speech—even superficially—we can see the general outline of the new government's well-marked course:
A. Support for democratic processes and elimination of dictatorships.
B. Support for freedom of expression and human rights.
C. A direct and determined struggle against drug trafficking.
D. A "cautious" security policy based on "true needs."
E. A bipartisan approach to achieve these objectives.

In U.S. relations with the rest of the world, Bush is likely to follow and expand the policy that President Ronald Reagan successfully applied of encouraging disarmament between the superpowers and supporting the near-revolutionary changes implicit in perestroyka and glasnost being undertaken by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Taken together, these elements hint at efforts toward detente on a worldwide basis, and in several violently disturbed areas from the East to Central America in particular.

This depends, of course, on Bush's team. We suppose, however, that, at least in the first 100 days traditionally granted to the President for making necessary changes—some analysts think it will be less in this case—an earnest effort will be carried out to reconcile the President's republican position with the Congress' democratic stance.

President Bush expressed this idea in his speech. He said: "We also need a new relationship between the Executive Branch and the Congress." This contrasts with Reagan's often dramatic confrontations with the Legislative Branch.

"We must make concessions. We have experienced dissension. We need harmony. We have formed a chorus of discordant voices," Mr Bush insisted, eagerly throwing out an olive branch because, as he understands it, "the old bipartisanship must be rebuilt."

This can be achieved only by setting the great objectives and establishing the basic principles—often disregarded by the former administration—that the true situation and the historic moment demand. These objectives and principles were outlined in the inaugural speech.

We Central Americans should look positively on the fact that Mr Bush did not mention Central America specifically. In the previous term, we got too much attention, so to speak. The policy toward this region became either whimsical or stubborn, as though a matter of honor.

Therefore, we need a lower profile, both in propaganda and the low-intensity war, to find practical solutions consistent with the true situation, which so far has been avoided and even clumsily distorted. This is why, despite the diplomatic ambiguity, Secretary of State James Baker's words describing Esquipulas II as "a good beginning" sound encouraging to us.

We will have to wait a little longer to see if these words are translated into facts. While we congratulate President Bush for his new post at the White House, we hereby express the hope that, less theatrically but more willingly, he can apply a more understanding, comprehensive, and practical policy in Central America.

Nicaragua

Contras' Antiaircraft Missiles in Costa Rica

PA2501214089 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1903 GMT 25 Jan 89

[Text] Managua, 25 Jan (DPA)—A senior Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry official said today that contras on the banks of the San Juan River near the Nicaraguan border in Costa Rican territory have antiaircraft missiles.

Danilo Abud, director of the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry's Central American office, told foreign news agency reporters that it has been proved that Nicaraguan helicopters did not violate Costa Rican airspace in the San Juan region.

Abud said there are Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries with modern antiaircraft missiles in the area of Costa Rican territory in which Costa Rican news media reported violations of Costa Rican airspace.

He noted that an explanation had been given at a meeting of the Costa Rican-Nicaraguan Security Commission on Monday about the helicopter operations and the incursion by a group of contras at the San Juan

River. He said the explanation was the opposite of newspaper reports claiming that they were people who were fleeing from Nicaragua.

Abud said that two Nicaraguan soldiers died during the incidents.

He announced that new meetings of the Costa Rican-Nicaraguan Security Commission have been scheduled for February to ease tensions in the border area and to carry out joint operations against drug trafficking.

EPS Denies Firing at Civilians at Border

PA2501142489 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 24 Jan 89 p 2

[Text] An EPS spokesman told BARRICADA yesterday that a group of mercenaries clashed with EPS troops at an EPS observation post located near the border with Costa Rica on 20 January. The EPS spokesman said one counterrevolutionary was killed in the clash.

The military spokesman added that EPS soldiers clashed with "a group of approximately 15 contras who were about to enter Costa Rican territory."

The EPS spokesman vigorously denied that Nicaraguan civilians who were supposedly fleeing to Costa Rica were strafed, as pro-U.S. media reported yesterday in Costa Rica and Nicaragua.

The spokesman stressed, "The men trying to enter Costa Rica were armed contras."

The border post troops were located at Las Mercedes Hill near the San Juan River when the contras' presence was detected in the border area.

Bomb Reportedly 'Defused' Kills 4 in Rio Blanco

PA2501140189 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1930 GMT 23 Jan 89

[Juan Carlos Sarmiento report from Matagalpa]

[Text] The deputy state security chief of Rio Blanco Municipality, whose name has not yet been disclosed, FSLN member Dario Tertillo Olivas, and two civilians, Alfredo Suarez and Johnny Mesas, died when a contra bomb that was being displayed to the public exploded in the Rio Blanco State Security office. The counterrevolutionaries had placed the bomb by a light pole in Chevo Luna, between Matiguas and Rio Blanco in the Saiz region. The accident occurred at 1100 yesterday. There is no explanation for the explosion, because the bomb reportedly had been defused.

Central Bank Devalues Cordoba 15 Percent

PA2601043589 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 25 Jan 89 p 1

[Text] The Central Bank of Nicaragua [BCN] has officially reported that as of today, the cordoba will be devalued by 15 percent in relation to the dollar. One dollar will now be worth 2,300 cordobas instead of 2,000 cordobas.

Carlos Matus, BCN's financial operations vice president, told BARRICADA that this adjustment is to support and boost exports and to help establish adequate prices for imported goods.

"To come close to the true cost of these products requires that they be used rationally and for efficient production," the banker said.

Matus recalled that prior to taking these dramatic measures, there were incredible distortions in the economy. He said, "A gallon of gasoline cost less than a piece of watermelon, and a bus ticket to San Juan del Sur was much cheaper than a bottle of vigoron [local liquor]."

The government decision exposed the irresponsibility of LA PRENSA, which, with no official information, speculated that the cordoba would be devalued by 100 percent, which created confusion among its readers.

Panama

U.S. Armed Forces Journal Accused of 'Meddling'

PA2501164389 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 24 Jan 89

[Text] In another flagrant violation of the Torrijos-Carter treaties and as a clear indication of U.S. meddling in Panama's internal affairs, the U.S. Southern Command has put the military newspaper TROPIC TIMES at the opposition's disposal. This newspaper comes out three times a week and circulates in the U.S. bases along the Panama Canal. In a letter addressed to the Joint Committee, Colonel Robert S. Perry, vice chairman of the U.S. delegation to the Joint Committee, stated the following: I believe that because of the upcoming elections in Panama and the ensuing expanded international media coverage of local political figures, additional reports will be issued to keep the U.S. Armed Forces community informed of local events.

The most recent TROPIC TIMES issue carries articles opposing Panama's domestic policies and supporting Democratic Opposition Alliance leaders and followers. Bursting with joy, the latest TROPIC TIMES issue prominently displayed recent remarks by opposition presidential candidate Guillermo Endara about renegotiating the canal treaties if he won the 7 May elections.

The news reports on Panama's current policies published in the TROPIC TIMES are part of a disinformation campaign against the Panamanian Government and the Panama Defense Forces and are a clear violation of the Torrijos-Carter treaties, the Panamanian delegation to the Joint Committee noted.

Commentary on Meddling Officials

PA2501193589 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 24 Jan 89

["Today in The World" commentary by Luis Manuel Martinez]

[Text] We are only 103 days away from election day. If elections are important, the style of the electoral campaign is also important, and we must patiently begin asking for a constructive public debate.

After 2 years of economic aggression, anguish, and slander in Panamanian homes, elections would be a joke if they became a competition of insults and insolent and indecent phrases. The country needs a warm and constructive debate.

With that said, let us discuss today's topic, which I title: Revolting Insolence.

Reagan is gone. His military, economic, and political aggression against some Latin American countries left a fatal image among all Third World countries. Let pollsters such as Gallop, Harris, Yankovich, and all others come to Latin American to ask what people think of the work done by their emperor during the last 8 years. After all, the U.S. President is an emperor who imposes and topples governments in foreign countries, discredits other countries, and destroys all obstacles that hinder his permanent expansionist tendency and unavoidable desire to interfere in other countries' affairs.

The repugnant figures continue their fatal work. At office No 3444 in the U.S. Justice Department and at 1818 N Street—N for no and N for nothing—Northwest, Suite 350, Washington D.C., with telephone no 775-8881, Susan Davis [daughter of U.S. Ambassador to Panama] invariably collects her monthly $10,000 salary the Servile Crusade [deriding name for Civic Crusade] pays her for walking along the Capitol's hallways and for telling U.S. senators, representatives, secretaries, traffickers of influence, and lobbyists that the United States should be very concerned about Panama and must clean Panama by eliminating General Manuel Noriega through any means.

Susan Davis, other U.S. salaried people, and several Civic Crusade members, whose offices are located in the heart of Washington D.C., all have their share. In addition, Arthur Davis [U.S. Ambassador to Panama], John Maisto [deputy chief of mission], Terrence Kneebone [U.S. Embassy public affairs officer], and other figures with less ability to plot, continue working at the U.S. Embassy here in Panama. From their den on Balboa Avenue, the empire's beasts and mastiffs continue sinking their fangs in the Panamanian people's right to live in peace.

In an unprecedented action, Brigadier General Mark Cisneros, director of U.S. Southern Command Operations, sinister John Maisto, Joseph McGhee, and Nicholas Vaughn from the U.S. Embassy have been secretly meeting with Guillermo Casco Arias of the Nationalist Liberal Republican Alliance, Louis Martinz [of the Authentic Panamenist Party], Democratic Revolutionary Party Legislator Alfredo Oranges—the orange prince who surrendered his principality for a dish of lentils that Tuturo [Eric Arturo Delvalle] gave him—Juan Real, Carlos Valencia [member of the Association of Panamanian Industrialists], Francisco Guerra, and Gabriel Mancilla. All of them met at apartment no 5 in the Condado del Rey building.

Copying his Philippine model, Maisto also met with Mireya Moscoso de Arias, wife of the late leader [Arnulfo Arias], to tell her that since she is not the opposition presidential candidate for the upcoming elections, she must be next to Guillermo Endara throughout the political campaign. They offered her a large sum of money to do that. That shows Maisto thinks Panama is like the Philippines and that we have another Corazon Aquino here. They are wrong. They are wrong again, and it is time that that bunch of infiltrated agents, who have made efforts to destabilize Panama, leave the country and that Susan Davis is not allowed into Panama anymore.

We have had enough. We are already walking on a wide democratic road toward the 7 May elections and our path cannot be disrupted by so many secret agents, spies, and Americans who do not respect our country at all.

Columnist Wants Dismissal of Embassy Officials

PA2601020589 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 25 Jan 89 p 5

[From "The Confidential Report" column by Ernesto Quijada Diaz]

[Text] If it is true that the new U.S. President wants to make people believe he is different, he should begin by firing the drunkard [U.S. Ambassador to Panama] Arthur Davis, the ridiculous [U.S. Deputy Chief of Mission] Maisto, and the "friend" of one of the main leaders of the so-called Ancon [National Association for the Conservation of Nature] Group, Susan Davis [daughter of Ambassador Davis]. Then we shall believe him.

Government Says Spanish Reporter Denied Entry

PA2601045589 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 25 Jan 89

[Text] The Panamanian Government has told ACAN-EFE that Spanish correspondent Joaquin Ibars of the Barcelona newspaper LA VANGUARDIA was not

expelled from Panama yesterday. The source said Ibars was not allowed to enter Panama because he refused to turn over his passport in accordance with a regulation for all foreign reporters who arrive in Panama.

Solis Palma on Possible Presidential Candidacy

PA2501165089 Panama City MEDIODIA in Spanish 23 Jan 89 p 11

[Text] Manuel Solis Palma [minister in charge of the Presidency] has not ruled out the possibility of agreeing to be the National Liberation Coalition (COLINA) presidential candidate in the 7 May elections.

Solis Palma resigned as the opposition Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement secretary general in 1984 because he disagreed with the criteria used to select the Democratic Opposition Alliance presidential candidate .

The head of the Executive Branch, who was sworn in on 26 February after the Legislative Assembly dismissed former President Eric Arturo Delvalle, is not a member of any of the seven parties comprising the government coalition.

Asked if he would agree to be nominated for president, Solis Palma said: "I have always maintained that people must react to circumstances. The possibility of my running for president will depend, to a great extent, on when this could be done and on the circumstances prevailing at that time."

"I have not ruled out (the possibility of being a presidential candidate), but I am not seeking it either," Solis Palma added.

Radio Network To Report COLINA Activities

PA2501202089 Panama City MEDIODIA in Spanish 24 Jan 89 p 10

[Summary] The Press and Propaganda Committee of the National Liberation Coalition (COLINA) will report on the political activities carried out by the candidates of that alliance through a radio network to be headed by Radio Verbo.

Opposition Asks Delvalle To Join Civic Crusade

PA2601042989 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 25 Jan 89

[Text] The Panamanian opposition has asked businessman Eric Arturo Delvalle to join the political alliance formed to confront the progovernment COLINA [National Liberation Coalition] at the 7 May elections.

The request to Delvalle was reported to ACAN-EFE today by opposition presidential candidate Guillermo Endara. He said preliminary contacts with Republican Party members who support Delvalle have already been made, and that Delvalle's decision to join the opposition democratic Civic Crusade alliance will probably be announced on 26 January.

Legislative Assembly President Carrizo Interview

PA2601033789 Panama City LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL in Spanish 22 Jan 89 p 2-A

[Interview with Celso Carrizo, president of the Legislative Assembly, by Zorely Figueroa of EL DIARIO DE CARACAS; in Panama City; date not given]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Figueroa] The opposition thinks there is nothing that indicates that United States will not comply with the treaties, just as it has been complying so far. What do you say to this?

[Carrizo] We have witnessed and suffered the consequences of about 51 violations of these treaties over the years. Some of the violations are of little importance, but others are more significant. For instance, the United States is not paying the Canal annuity to Panama. In addition, the United States has violated the stipulation that there be no more than 10,000 military men on the bases. We know, however, that there are about 24,000, and the U.S. Government has not concealed that fact. On the contrary, the number of troops arriving at the military bases has been reported to the public.

Furthermore, U.S. and Panamanian Panama Canal employees must pay income taxes to the Panamanian Government just like anybody else. However these employees have not been paying the taxes because their employer, the U.S. Government, has been withholding the money. What would happen to a U.S. or Panamanian citizen working in the United States who did not pay taxes to the U.S. Government? This is tax evasion. In the United States, tax evaders are punished more severely than criminals. I ask them: Is withholding this money not a violation of the treaties? It is, and it's a terrible one.

[Figueroa] Do you think this is a form of pressure to force General Noriega to step down?

[Carrizo] Everything the United States does is a form of pressure to force us into renegotiating the treaties and compromising our position. We must admit that, unfortunately, some Panamanians have been telling the U.S. Government that they are willing to negotiate in exchange for power. This is a fact.

All we ask is that the U.S. Government complies with the treaties. That is the extent of the relations we are interested in having with the United States. If the United States does not want to help and support us, so be it, but we want all the money back that they have been withholding, which includes not only taxes, but the Panama National Bank funds in U.S. banks as well. The freezing of these funds initiated the crisis and is the reason why it has continued. The U.S. Government has done violence

not only to our consulates, but also to our embassy in the United States. This is antidemocratic and a form of pressure to force us to negotiate with them.

[Figueroa] The local media have mentioned the possibility that Noriega might become the PRD [Democratic Revolutionary Party] presidential candidate. What do you think of this, as a personal friend of his?

[Carrizo] There has been speculation on Noriega's candidacy—it has not yet been decided. To mention names of possible candidates, like Noriega—as a Panamanian citizen, he could very well be a candidate—would be a little risky at this time. A decision could be reached in late January or in February. Noriega will have to ponder the possibility of becoming candidate. As Defense Forces commander in chief, he will have to make his decision. He will have to weigh the pros and cons of this idea—which has not yet crystallized into a firm proposal. Such a candidacy has been mentioned, just as those of the opposition have.

The opposition says the government has been creating small parties—they call them "shells"—to "manipulate" the elections. This matter of small or big parties is an electoral problem, one that has to do with training and political culture. We are not really a country with strong political party inclinations. We like elections, but we do not have a deep rooted tradition of two or three large parties with a long history. Rather, we tend to form large and small parties, which is typical of Latin America, not only Panama. This occurs in the government and the opposition as well.

[Figueroa] A "robbery" of parties has even been mentioned. How do you explain this?

[Carrizo] When a party is formed, it must have symbols to distinguish it from others. The opposition says Arnulfo Arias' party was stripped of its symbols. I tell you it was a political move by a section of the "Arnulfism" that no longer exists. There was a political division, a split, as usually happens. I do not really think this is a great sin. I am asking the opposition to participate in the elections. My own post is the result of an electoral process. I think the opposition will participate in the elections, although they are still having trouble choosing their representative. Ricardo Arias Calderon is struggling to become the candidate, but I am not sure whether he will be able to unite the opposition around him. He will barely succeed because there is much division in the opposition, which has not truly coalesced.

[Figueroa] What do you think about Vice President Roderick Esquivel's [Erick Arturo Delvalle's vice president] estrangement from the government?

[Carrizo] Esquivel was away from the government even when Delvalle was still president. But he is no longer vice president because the Legislative Assembly removed him. His post is vacant.

[Figueroa] Is that legal?

[Carrizo] Yes, according to our Constitution. We did it according to law. May I repeat: Esquivel is no longer vice president, not only for us, but for everybody else in the country. Manuel Solis Palma is the true president.

[Figueroa] What happened to President Delvalle?

[Carrizo] Delvalle is simply waiting for the U.S. Government to put him back in the president's seat. He is rumored to have been at a military base in Panama and also in Miami. Everything here, however, is functioning smoothly without Delvalle and Esquivel.

[Figueroa] There has also been much talk of human rights violations in Panama.

[Carrizo] Yes, it is often mentioned, but the Yankees are the leading human rights violators. I consider the campaign they have mounted against Panama a human rights violation. The United States has been violating human rights with the many Yankee soldiers who stroll along our streets and avenues and with their planes overflying Panama City. In addition, this violates the treaties. According to the treaties, there are specific and clearly marked areas where they can go, but they have not been complying with this. They have been violating our human rights.

You also have a violation of human rights when a civilian uses the media to disrupt public order. That is a human rights violation. I will give you another example: Special signs were painted outside my house stating that a government supporter lived inside and that this was one of the houses to be attacked, if necessary. That is a human rights violation. Antigovernment groups painted special crosses and distributed pamphlets stating which houses should be burned. We have never complained about that.

[Figueroa] Political prisoners have issued statements saying they have received inhumane treatment in Panamanian jails. What can you say about that?

[Carrizo] Political prisoners? There are political prisoners but no one has been tortured. I would like to hear anyone who was released from jail speak about torture.

[Figueroa] Some prisoners say that they are not fed and that the are forced to remain standing day after day in cells where, because of their size, they cannot even squat.

[Carrizo] Well, no one feels comfortable in jail; the fact that you are in jail, behind bars, is uncomfortable in itself. However, you must go to jail if you break the law, and those who are in jail broke the law in one way or another. However, I can assure you that they have been treated in a humane way. If you were staying longer in Panama, I would take you to visit the jails. Furthermore, political prisoners are given a special treatment because

they are not locked up with common criminals; they are kept in special rooms, with certain comforts. I repeat: Let anyone come and show me proof that they have been tortured.

[Figueroa] They were not talking about physical torture; they we talking about psychological torture, which is worse in many cases.

[Carrizo] I do not think so. One inflicts psychological torture on oneself. The fact that you are in jail is a torture in itself. I believe that this is basically some kind of propaganda. All this has its effect on the people and there is a question of whether prisoners are tortured in Panama or not—it is more like a psychological war.

The war in Panama has been mostly psychological—on both sides. This is a psychological third world war because not a single shot has been fired. All you have are rumors—you hear that a message was sent to that side and then you hear that a message was received on this side; later we say we will do this and then the others say they will do that, etc. People go crazy. That is it. Those who go crazy in this psychological war become the casualties.

American Armies Conference Opens New Office

PA2501140089 Panama City Television Service in Spanish 1530 GMT 22 Jan 89

[Text] Panama Defense Forces [FDP] Chief of Staff Colonel Marco Justines Hernandez headed the ceremony to open the office of the Panama Permanent Executive Secretariat of the American Armies Conference [Secretaria Ejecutiva Permanente de la Conferencia de Ejercitos Americanos de Panama], SEPCEAPAN. This office is at the National Directorate of Land Traffic and Transportation building.

The members of the FDP staff, military attaches accredited to Panama, and high-ranking FDP officers attended the ceremony during which Military Chaplain Lieutenant Colonel Carlos Velarde blessed the office.

Col Justines granted the privilege of cutting the ribbon to Lieutenant Colonel Aristides Hassan.

The introductory statement was made by SEPCEAPAN Director Lieutenant Colonel Moises Correa, who said this office is the result of the prodevelopment position of the FDP commander in chief.

Major Armando Palacios Gondola provided information about the functions and operations that this new military office will perform.

SEPCEAPAN is composed of Lt Col Correa; Majors Palacios Gondola, Luis Cordoba, and Francisco Porras; and Captains Severino Mejia and John Pimento.

This new office, which is a product of the participation of the FDP commander in chief at the 17th American Armies Conference held in Buenos Aires, Argentina in mid-1987, has a secretariat area, a room with the national flags of all the member-countries of the American Armies Conference, and a conference room.

General Revenue Directorate's New Tax Program

PA2601031389 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 25 Jan 89 pp 1, 18

[Text] The General Revenue Directorate, in an effort to increase tax revenues, especially from those taxpayers who fail to list their correct income, has started a new program to exchange information to detect the deficient reporting of income. This exchange of information involves banks, insurance companies, clinics, and hospitals, and will help detect a large number of doctors, lawyers, and other professionals who have avoided paying taxes.

"During boom days we were flexible, but now we have to demand payment of all taxes," a high-ranking General Revenue Directorate official said.

The information exchange program is yielding good results because the computerized system used by the Treasury and Finance Ministry is compatible with other systems, such as the Social Security Fund. Those businesses that pay only part of their tax payments are detected.

Weekly Review of Political Situation

PA2501221789 [Editorial Report] The following is a review of material from the Panamanian and regional media related to the current political situation in Panama. This review covers the period from 17 to 23 January and includes some items that have been processed in fuller form.

Relations With the United States

During the reporting period, Panamanian media gave extensive coverage to three main events involving U.S.-Panamanian relations: a government rally on 20 January to celebrate the ending of President Reagan's term, which elicited comments on what can be expected from the incoming U.S. Administration; an alleged "secret" meeting between U.S. Government representatives and members of the Panamanian opposition; and a bomb threat reported by the U.S. Consulate in Panama City.

The independent Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish on 20 January carried a brief report on the rally held at the 5th of May Plaza in Panama City to celebrate President Reagan's departure from office. In contrast, Panama City LA REPUBLICA on 20 January, like most of the local papers, carried a full report on the rally with pictures on its front and back pages showing effigies of President Reagan being burned. In its editorial

on 20 January, titled "The End of a Political Nightmare," Panama City CRITICA noted that the end has come for a "mediocre actor, sports commentator, and former Democrat." It goes on to say: "We do not have too much faith that the new republican administration headed by George Bush is going to 'play up to us'... but we find it difficult to believe that any President could be more treacherous and stupid than the man from California." Turning from criticism of Reagan to the new U.S. President, Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA stated in its 20 January editorial: "As far as Panama is concerned, the new President inherits a controversial situation and a frigid climate. Although many Panamanians hope for a change, when we consider the way the winds are blowing, in our opinion Mr Bush will unfortunately maintain the same position as his predecessor.... In any case, there is always hope that the ceremony taking place today in the U.S. capital will serve to bring about great rectifications and to guide the relations between the Panamanian and U.S. Governments along the traditional paths of harmony, respect, and understanding."

A communique issued by the Revolutionary Panamenist Party and published in Panama City MATUTINO on 20 January marks the end of the Reagan administration, but urges people not to let down their guard. It says: "We urge the Panamanian people to remain alert, because while it is true that Reagan's disgraceful government is ending, the imperialists have a single policy: to oppress Third World peoples." Under the banner headline "The People Expect Rectifications from the United States," the same issue of MATUTINO devoted an entire page to opinions expressed by the "man in the street." In general, the people who consulted express hope that President Bush will "improve" U.S. policy toward Panama and other countries. One man said: "The new President, Bush, has more political experience than Reagan, and he will put things right."

On 20 January, LA REPUBLICA carried a cartoon by Chic Martinez showing two ships, each with a caricature of Uncle Sam on board. On one side of the cartoon, the ship named Reagan is sinking, and its cargo of boxes, marked "aggression," "provocations," "economic terrorism," and "invasion," has been washed overboard. A ship named Bush is approaching at the left of the cartoon. A Panamanian is shown saying: "That ship sank, and the other will too if it carries the same type of cargo."

By way of more advice to the incoming President, on 23 January Panama City MEDIODIA stated in its "Frank Opinion" column that President Reagan spoke of reconsidering the Canal treaties "as if this were legally acceptable." It states that in saying this, Reagan was forgetting several things, among them the moral and ethical principles that oblige all nations to keep their word and the fact that Panamanians will always be ready to shed their blood before permitting a reversal of what has been won "at such a great cost." The columnist concludes by saying: "It can only be hoped that more balanced and less obtuse minds will understand that they can play with all our values, offend us, threaten us, and try to intimidate us, but let them not touch the treaties, because that will be the Achilles heel of the giant who provokes us daily."

LA REPUBLICA on 23 January carried a cartoon showing a large package addressed from Reagan to Bush, labeled "U.S. Policy Toward Panama," which is weighing down Uncle Sam. A Panamanian on top of the package says: "Change your moves, because we will get heavier every day."

In a different vein, a commentary by Danilo Caballero, director general of the National Information System, carried by Panama City Domestic Service on 23 January, says the "change of style" noted in statements by President Bush and Secretary of State Baker regarding U.S. policy toward Panama is "quite encouraging."

On 19 January, CRITICA reported that a "strange and suspicious" meeting reportedly took place between U.S. diplomatic and military officials and members of the Panamanian opposition. The alleged meeting was also reported by Panama City Televisora Nacional on 19 January in an unattributed commentary that calls on the people to be alert to this "open, shameless, unjust, and treasonous intervention" by Americans in Panama's internal affairs. In a follow-up report on 20 January, CRITICA carried a front-page item showing pictures of a U.S. Army license plate and blurred pictures of unidentifiable individuals that it says prove that "once again high-ranking officials of the U.S. Embassy in Panama and of the Southern Command, in complicity with Panamanian politicians who are trying to overthrow the government, met in the capital to devise strategies to create chaos and destabilize the country." A caption under a photograph of an automobile says U.S. Embassy people are so "barefaced" that they do not care if photographers catch them "openly participating in meetings with representatives of the internal sedition and organizing activities against the government and the country."

The Panamanian media has generally tended to follow the government's lead in dismissing a bomb threat reported at the U.S. Consulate in Panama City on 17 January. A report by Hamburg DPA on 17 January quotes a "high-ranking Panamanian state security officer" as saying that the incident was fabricated by U.S. Ambassador Davis' staff as part of a plan to "destabilize" Panama. CRITICA carried a report on 18 January saying that U.S. Ambassador Davis and Deputy Chief of Mission John Maisto made a "big fuss" over a false bomb that turned out to be a box containing dirty underwear. The report is accompanied by a cartoon ridiculing the incident.

MEDIODIA, however, did not laugh off the incident. Instead, it carried a full-page report with pictures on 18 January and asked: "Is this an occupied country?" One photo caption says: "In open violation of existing treaties, U.S. Marines occupied streets adjacent to the consulate for almost an hour. The gringos did not inform Panamanian authorities or wait for their presence before carrying out the operation."

Domestic Political Affairs

Two major trends stood out in media political reportage during the reporting period: the opposition's announcement of its ticket for the May elections, and speculation over the progovernment alliance's presidential candidate.

After several days of reports that the opposition was trying to persuade Mireya Moscoso de Arias, widow of three-time president Arnulfo Arias Madrid, to agree to be the opposition candidate, LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA reported on 18 January that Mrs Arias had again refused to be a candidate but had expressed support for any unity movement that might emerge within the opposition. The opposition announced its three-man ticket on 20 January, as was reported by Panama City ACAN and subsequently by all of the local papers.

On the government side, the media gave several names as possible presidential candidates of the progovernment seven-party National Liberation Coalition, COLINA, including Manuel Solis Palma, current minister in charge of the Presidency, and General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces.

A MEDIODIA report on 23 January said Solis Palma has not ruled out accepting the COLINA nomination, while in a 22 January report on opposition leaders' comments on the elections, ACAN said: "The parties that support the government have not yet revealed who their candidates will be, and there are many rumors that General Noriega himself might seek the presidency, something he has neither confirmed nor denied so far."

Panama City Circuito RPC Television reported on 18 January that, when pressed to state whether or not he would be a candidate, Gen Noriega said the time was not yet "right." However, following a speech by Gen Noriega on 17 January at the Marriott Hotel in Panama City, there were increased references to the general as a "politician" or "statesman," and to his speech as a "government platform." LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA on 20 January said Noriega had spoken as the "statesman," not the "military man," while a CRITICA cartoon on 20 January refers to the general as "our political-military leader." In his column in LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL on 22 January, Mario Augusto Rodriguez described the Noriega speech as a "presidential platform," and says that although Noriega has not been nominated by any party, "his name has been persistently mentioned, both inside and outside of the country, as the possible candidate of the recently created COLINA."

In the same vein, Luis Restrepo, in his "Vox Populi" column published in LA REPUBLICA on 18 January, said: "On listening to Gen Noriega analyze the nation's problems, this columnist realized that the military man had evolved into a statesman without the chains of the professional politician, whose brain, like Daedalus' maze, often diverts him along unpredictable paths.

"Gen Noriega's government plan is for the fatherland of the future, the fatherland that must win the 1989 and 1994 elections to avoid a vacuum in nationalistic politics that our natural enemy would be able to exploit."

Socioeconomic Developments

In several media reports during this period, government officials have acknowledged the serious deterioration of the economic situation. A MEDIODIA report on 20 January cited a member of the Panamanian Government's economic team as having said the Panamanian Government had defaulted on $540 million of debt payments in 1988. Moreover, in a LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA article on 23 January, Panamanian Comptroller General Francisco Rodriguez is quoted as saying that the economy will continue to decline in 1989, although not as sharply as in 1988.

However, on the positive side, MEDIODIA on 17 January cited the general manager of the Colon Free Zone as saying that, despite the crisis and banking problems, the Free Zone had ended 1988 with a total income of $3.962 billion, and LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA on 19 January cited the executive secretary of the Panama Banking Commission as saying that there has been some stabilization in the banking community and, if the improvement continues, additional banking restrictions will be eased.

A 10-page economic supplement carried by LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA on 23 January contained 13 articles in which private and government economic experts comment on the present state of the economy.

Argentina

Alfonsin News Conference on Economic Issues

PY2001193489 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Jan 89

[News conference by President Raul Alfonsin at Olivos Residence conference room—live]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [San Martin] Luis San Martin of TELAM. Several opposition sectors have expressed their concern over an eventual economic crash by the end of May, after the elections. What will happen to the so-called Spring Plan?

[Alfonsin] I think that is merely rhetoric which serves to depress the Argentine people. You must recall the articles published by some economists giving advise to Mr Menem. One of them was by Mr Cabalo, who explained how to destroy the Spring Plan. This plan was considered dead before it was even born; then it was said that it would last 2 months. However, it is 6 months old now and it is working quite well. I believe it is our last chance, and I plan to govern until 10 December. There will be no crash here because things are being carried out as planned and seriously, because we will continue seeking the structural changes necessary to integrate Argentina into the world—because we expanded the tax system, because we managed to obtain something that was perhaps unheard of before in the world in the framework of collective labor bargains. All of this demonstrates the success of the Spring Plan. The plan will continue without any kind of omissions. [passage omitted]

[Galarza] Lidia Galarza of Parana. I am not going to ask you to get your calculator, but I would like you to give us an estimate of what our foreign and domestic debts will be at the end of your administration on 10 December.

[Alfonsin] Well, when we arrived in government the foreign debt amounted to $45,069,000,000. I believe it has now increased by $13,324,000,000—of which $5,400,000,000 corresponds to devaluation of the dollar because we had debts in other currencies such as German marks, the yens, and others, and the rest corresponds to our overdue interests.

I believe it is contradictory that on one hand we are charged with the increase of the debt and on the other hand we are told—repeatedly, by the more than a dozen general strikes we have had to go through—not to pay it anymore. Evidently, if we do not pay the debt it will increase. And this is what happened. Perhaps we should discuss this subject in more depth because it is very interesting.

There have been two attitudes regarding the foreign debt problem in the world. Some countries chose confrontation, others negotiation. I do not think that those who chose confrontation did well, yet on the other hand those who chose negotiation did not do exceedingly well either. We can say that most of the Latin American countries and all the communist countries indebted to the West can be counted as among those who chose to negotiate. In turn there are two approaches to the issue. Some of them paid all the interests, and others—among whom we are included—are trying to pay 50 percent of the interests.

Since 1984 Argentina has paid less than 50 percent of the interest generated by its debt. This means that we managed to earmark 50 percent of the funds that would have been sent abroad for domestic investment needed for Argentine development.

I feel this is what we had to do. I also believe that no other country in the world could have negotiated better than we did, and none could have obtained better terms in its negotiations. We have not stopped there, however, because we are not satisfied with the treatment given to the debt issue. Since Cartagena in 1984, we have argued that the foreign debt needs to be treated as a political issue. At that time, our proposal was regarded as absurd. Today, even though we have not yet obtained as much understanding as we need, some parties are beginning to accept our proposal. For instance, President Mitterrand is already using similar terms. Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, as well as Italian, German, and Japanese politicians and even the U.S. President-elect are also discussing this issue.

Therefore, I am optimistic, and I believe that this year we will be able to find a way to start a nonconventional discussion, as we proposed at the Council of the Americas in June 1988. At that time I stated that it was not possible for debtors to pay interest higher than the traditional rate, that is, 4 percent.

Going back to your question, it is really contradictory and absurd for us to be charged with increasing the foreign debt by those who told us not to pay it. Now they have changed their minds. Now they say that it must be paid. So maybe now they are right when they say the debt increased. [passage omitted]

[Barcelona] Eduardo Barcelona of Radio Excelcior. Some Armed Forces and opposition sectors sometimes mention the possibility of a new military uprising. The overall military crisis is not over, as you know. Do you think that a new uprising could take place before 14 May?

[Alfonsin] The Argentine Armed Forces are, as we have said several times, the armed branch of the nation and of society, but they are also part of society. Their difference with the rest of society is technical. The Armed Forces have the essential mission of guaranteeing our territorial sovereignty where popular sovereignty is exercised. There is no society without territory, and there is no free society without an independent territory. Therefore if a free society must exist its territory must be guaranteed by the Armed Forces. That is why the Armed Forces are absolutely necessary and irreplaceable.

The important thing is that the Armed Forces have a feeling of belonging to society, just as society must assume such need for integration. The Armed Forces feel they belong to society because society itself respects the institutions. The Armed Forces feel integrated when society acknowledges what has been done in defense of the institutions.

For instance, regarding the last episode—and to avoid some confusions here, we must acknowledge that the Armed Forces defended the institutions—there are some people who say that one cannot distinguish between the loyal or rebel officers because there has not been a confrontation, or because they could somehow have reached some point of agreement on specific issues. This is not so, however, because if it were, democracy would be indefensible.

The truth is that the cessation of hostilities is owed to the loyal forces who defeated the rebels. That is, there was no problem regarding defense. There is an essential difference in this. Some officers complied with their duties and obeyed the orders from the institutions and defended discipline and hierarchy, while others did not.

Therefore I think it is essential that the civilians correctly evaluate the military uprisings in order to acknowledge the military commands and most of the military members who acted correctly honoring military virtues which are the substance of the Armed Forces. This is an essential condition for the integration of the Armed Forces to society. There are other conditions which work against this integration, such as the attempt to politically indoctrinate the Armed Forces.

I am worried about the talks about liberal or nationalistic military men. We already know the devastating effects of such a division. And it is much worse now. We must now seriously discuss what is going on here. Without a doubt there currently exists a division between many military men and the government regarding the interpretation of the recent struggle against subversion.

It is also true that many military men are dissatisfied because many of their demands could not be met—for example regarding their budget, equipment, salaries, etc. Because of this, one has to be very careful when discussing this subject. It is clear that despite this dissatisfaction, the Armed Forces defended the institutions and put an end to the 60-year-old disagreement between the military forces and the legal institutions.

I believe that, clearly, the military commands have coped with the country's economic crisis and distress better than some political sectors despite all the difficulties. It is also clear that the Armed Forces acknowledge that a partial solution is not possible if we are not convinced of a basic definition of reality, which is that we are living in a democratic country in development.

Concretely, regarding your question, I can categorically say that the rebels will have no chance of success. I admit, however, that I cannot say with the same certainty that new episodes will not take place. We will overcome these problems, mainly because we count on the loyalty of the military commands and on the military virtues—to which I already referred—of most of the Argentine military men. We will overcome these problems because Argentine society is clearly aware of the need to work together in defense of our national institutions.

I am concerned about the attitude of some Justicialist Party members after the Villa Martelli incident. These people have blamed the government for the situation. They say we do not have a military policy. That is just not true.

We have reorganized the Defense Ministry so it can fulfill its role within the framework of a democratic government. We have reorganized the Joint General Staff to seek a more rational use of our Armed Forces. We have changed teaching systems and methods in the training institutes. We have improved the distribution of responsibilities within the three branches. We have worked out a clearer definition between security forces and Armed Forces and we have established that the Coast Guard and Border Police are subordinate to the Defense Ministry.

We have also advanced in the areas of budget, planning, and spending control. We admit there is much to do to transform this weak elephant into a vigorous horse better suited to achieve the Armed Forces ultimate goals, as desired by the military.

We have begun to transform the Armed Forces and before my mandate ends we want to have a complete reequipment program under way.

But there is still something worse than the problem itself. We all know that the nationalists—from the civilian and military—have taken advantage of the general disatisfaction of our economic situation to create the Holy Week crisis, the Monte Caseros incident, and the Villa Martelli rebellion. Menem, for instance, has just praised the attitude of Colonel Seineldin. He has the right to do that, but as a presidential candidate he should have remembered that he was talking about an insurgent, and recalled those who courageously defended our national institutions, of which he is part as governor.

The problem, however, does not end there. There is a great contradiction that concerns us all. Very important leaders are praising Colonel Seineldin's stance. We all know he is a fundamentalist who ideologically conspires against democracy, as if we did not know the deprivations we suffered under previous dictatorships. I can imagine the confusion these contradictions create in the minds of Justicialist Party followers. These contradictions have appeared with regularity on every serious issue, beginning with the Beagle affair.

What can a Justicialist sympathizer think when a senator like Bravo Herrera says we have to approve an amnesty law at the same time a deputy like Manzano criticizes us because we passed a law on due obedience. What can he think when Justicialist leaders praise Seineldin, or when their candidate speaks of the need for more discipline while praising the attitude of an insurgent. We have to take these incidents seriously because they are more important than electoral problems. All of us have to responsibly assume the defense of democracy. Otherwise we may waste the efforts of many years in achieving the democracy we now enjoy. They will not succeed, I can assure you, but we will have to overcome may hurdles to achieve a stable democracy.

[Vega] Alfredo Vega of LA NACION. Mr President, do you think we are closer today to solving the military problem than when you took over?

[Alfonsin] I have no doubt about it. I think we have done what we had to. I do not want to appear arrogant because we have made many mistakes, but I think we are closer to a solution because a majority of people have a better understanding of the situation. We have gone through serious military incidents like the incidents of Monte Chingolo, Azul, and Tucuman. Our officers though, have begun to understand that there were excesses and that state terrorism existed. We need a reconciliation through justice and the mutual recognition of our mistakes. It is easier to reach an agreement today because the thousands of trials we had to deal with at the beginning have been reduced to only a few dozen individuals who can cause problems over the trials.

We have also advanced because the most important branches of the Armed Forces have come forward in defense of democratic institutions. They often disagreed with our policies and held conflicting views on their role, but they have come forward nonetheless under the banner and spirit of San Martin. Democracy will prevail as long as the spirit of San Martin prevails within the Armed Forces.

[Poliak] Mario Poliak of DYN. Mr President, one of our political parties has recently charged that Carlos Menem and Seineldin allegedly met to discuss replacing you with the vice president. Can you comment on this?

[Alfonsin] I will simply remind you that at the time of the alleged meeting Colonel Seineldin was under arrest.

[Colombo] Horacio Colombo of Radio Belgrano. Mr President, Brigade General Francisco Gassino, the Armed Forces chief of staff, said during his inauguration speech that the moment was ripe for a reconciliation between civilians and the military. Do you think this reconciliation has already been achieved or will you let the next government assume the responsibility for it?

[Alfonsin] I think we are advancing toward a mutual understanding. This understanding will come after the Armed Forces understand that they are part of society, and after the population understands the need to integrate the Armed Forces into our society and that they have an irreplaceable role in it. I think we will have to continue working on the problem for many years because my administration had to face an economic, administrative, and political transition at the same time. I believe we have established that mutual respect is indispensable for an understanding of the roles of all sectors of society. The role of the Armed Forces in a modern society is to advise the government on all national issues.

[Pipino] Ricardo Pipino of Cablevision and Radio America. Mr President, do you have any information on new troubles in the Armed Forces or about meetings with Colonel Seineldin?

[Alfonsin] Military regulations allow visits to Colonel Seineldin from 1800 to 2000. We know many Justicialist leaders have gone to see him. Many of them are close to Carlos Menem.

[Rodriguez] Carlos Rodriguez of NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS. Many officers have recently asked that the fight against subversion be vindicated. Some government officials have also expressed similar views. Do you not see a contradiction in all this?

[Alfonsin] We maintain the position expressed during our electoral campaign. We said there was indeed a need to fight subversion, terrorism, and other elitist sectors that wanted to take over. We all agreed that the fight against subversion was necessary. We have vindicated incidents like the one in Tucuman Province, but we have also criticized the methods and the state terrorism that existed. This is our position. [passage omitted]

[Maidana] Roberto Maidana of Channel 11. Will you participate directly in the electoral campaign? Do you have any special hope that something will change with the Bush administration?

[Alfonsin] I will not intervene in the electoral campaign, but I will defend my administration because the opposition campaign is based on attacking the government. Regarding your second question, I have to say that I had the pleasure of meeting the President-elect when I had to rush back from the United Nations. I met him in Washington. He introduced me to Vice President Quayle, Mr Shultz, Mr Baker, Treasury Secretary Brady, Treasury Under Secretary Mr Mulfort, Elliott Abrams, and other officials. We talked about Latin American problems. I was impressed by his interest in our problems because that is what we need. We are constantly talking about the most important problems with the United States—not only about Latin American problems, but also about our national problems. I hope we will see a change in the treatment of the foreign debt

problem. I also hope the United States will strengthen its relations with Latin America, hopefully through the Group of Eight. [passage omitted]

Government Creates National Security Council

PY2601030089 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish
0102 GMT 26 Jan 89

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 25 Jan (DYN)—The Executive Branch today released the text of decree 83/89, which creates the National Security Council. The council will advise the government on "antisubversive strategy." The decree was issued after the bloody terrorist seizure of the 3d Motorized Infantry Regiment in La Tablada. [passage omitted] Herewith the text of the decree:

Considering the terms of paragraphs 1, 15, 17, and 20 of Article 86 of the Constitution, and considering the serious events that occurred on 23 and 24 January that are known by the public, events which have undoubtedly jeopardized the life and freedom of the people;

Considering that the president should therefore exercise the full powers that the Constitution has bestowed upon him in order to comply with the objectives established in the Constitution, such objectives being the achievement of national unity, the preservation of justice, the preservation of internal peace, the provision for the defense of the people, the promotion of general well-being, and the preservation of the benefits of freedom for all those who live on Argentine soil;

Considering that the exercise of his constitutional powers will require that the president make decisions aiming at efficiently preventing, checking, and neutralizing any possible repetition of the aforementioned events, and at deterring such events within the law;

Considering that without precluding the terms of Decree 82/89, which enforced the necessary measures for performing a rapid investigation and for the clarification of the events that have occurred, it is necessary to coordinate the decisions that must be adopted in all areas;

Considering the possibility that the very serious events that occurred may have links abroad cannot be ruled out;

Considering that it is appropriate to recall that in December 1987, the consensus board—which was made up of 12 political parties—stated that: The political and legal nature of the state of law grants the constitutional government the power to use all the material and human resources for the preservation of internal peace and for safeguarding the life, honor, and property of all inhabitants;

Considering that in order to make the best use of the available resources, and to ensure the success of any measures that may be adopted, it is essential for the president to be properly advised by the various organs of government,

The president of the Argentine nation hereby decress:

Article 1. A security council is hereby created within the jurisdiction of the Presidency.

Article 2. The council referred to in Article 1 shall be made up of the interior minister, the defense minister, the foreign minister, the state intelligence secretary of the Presidency, the chief of the Armed Forces Joint Staff, and the chiefs of staff of the Armed Forces. The council shall be presided over by the president, who shall designate the council's secretary.

Article 3. The duties of the council shall be to advise the president on the subjects that he submits to the council in connection with measures to be adopted for neutralizing any violent action by organizations that jeopardize the security, life, property, or freedom of the people, or the institutions or property of the state. The council shall also provide the federal courts with all the information that may be useful for investigations and for legal proceedings in connection with the events. The council shall advise the president particularly on: A) the strategy for antisubversive action; B) the coordination of the security organizations in order to optimize their action; C) [words indistinct] of the provinces.

Article 4. The president may invite the attorney general to join the council.

Article 5. The president may invite other officials or persons whose knowledge or jurisdiction are, in his opinion, useful in the matters to be discussed. The president may also call for partial council meetings, and in such cases he shall name the members who shall attend the sessions.

Article 6. The president shall instruct the council on the matters that shall receive priority treatment, and shall designate the minister who will act as coordinator in each case.

Article 7. It is so ordered.

Further Reportage on La Tablada Attack

List of Subversives Killed

PY2501201089 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish
1945 GMT 25 Jan 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 25 Jan (TELAM)—Attorney General Andres D'Alessio has announced the names of some of the subversives killed in the La Tablada incident. Some still remain to be identified.

They are: Jorge Manuel Banos (one of the leaders of the All for the Fatherland Movement), Claudia Elsa Lareu, Berta Emilia Calvo, Jose Luis Caldu, Miguel Angel Luque, Ricardo Alberto Leiva, Juan Arsenio Gonzalez Rabuggeti, Pablo Matin Ramos, Pedro Juan Cabanas, and Luis Angel Segovia.

Police Say 10 Attackers Fled

PY2501185589 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1500 GMT 25 Jan 89

[Text] Buenos Aires Police Chief Inspector Walter Jurado has said that some 10 terrorists may have escaped during the attack on the 3d Infantry Regiment at La Tablada.

Contradicting previously released information, Inspector Jurado reasserted that all detained terrorists are Argentine and not Central Americans.

Modern Weapons Used

PY2501173789 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1500 GMT 25 Jan 89

[Excerpt] It has been reported that the terrorists who attacked the 3d Infantry Regiment used modern weapons.

They were found with 18 shotguns, 11 light rifles, Uzi submachineguns, grenade launchers, and plastic explosives.

Apparently, the terrorists' had planned for the regiment barracks to be occupied by three groups plus a group on reserve for a total of 69 people. These groups consisted of an assault group comprising 32 people, a tank assault group comprising 14 people, a third group known as the agitators' group comprising 19 people, and a reserve group comprising 4 people.

The government has already distributed photocopies of the proclamation attributed to the terrorists who attacked the La Tablada. [passage omitted]

Armed Subversives Disrupt Traffic, Shout Slogans

PY2501152489 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1444 GMT 25 Jan 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 25 Jan (NA)—Six bare-chested individuals carrying heavy caliber weapons shouted revolutionary slogans against the government a few meters from the police control post at the intersection of Provincias Unidas and Camino de la Cintura Avenues in San Justo. The individuals identified themselves as members of the subversive People's Revolutionary Army (ERP).

The event occurred at 1050 when the six individuals jumped from two vehicles carrying FAL rifles, apparently to threaten the three police officers manning the highway control post.

According to witnesses, most of the individuals were wearing jeans and carrying weapons. They were shouting revolutionary slogans against the president.

The commando-type operation took drivers by surprise. Drivers slowed to see what was going on, and this created a traffic jam in both directions which delayed the arrival of police units coming to repress the subversives.

Meanwhile the police guards asked for reinforcements by radio, warning about the possibility of a subversive takeover of the post, which did not occur.

The situation caused alarm among the people living in the nearby apartment complex, but there was no shooting.

Three police vehicles from the 3d Infantry Regiment at La Tablada, which is about 3 km away, came to the site of the incident, but the subversives had already left.

SIDE Chief on Unrest Within Armed Forces

PY1901171989 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1225 GMT 19 Jan 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 19 Jan (NA)—Facundo Suarez, head of the Secretariat for State Intelligence, SIDE, has said that there are yet "a few" Armed Forces members who, "although they are a minority, they do not accept the constitutional order and could create minor difficulties."

He said that most of the military members wish to maintain the constitutional order, and even "the rebels (of Villa Martelli) will no longer protest if fair measures like the current ones—I believe—could be adopted."

Suarez said that the SIDE was not surprised by the most recent military uprising, since "I reported it. It was thought that they would not be able to find a leader," therefore "a mistake was made."

He attributed that mistake to "a lack of appreciation" by military intelligence, which, he said, "took the subject very seriously and managed to get everything under control in the end."

In an interview published today by the newspaper AMBITO FINANCIERO, Facundo Suarez said that "it is risky" to speak of a return of the guerrillas, adding that he does not believe in "planting microphones, or eavesdropping on congressmen, or in knocking down doors," because "those are things of the past."

Suarez said that former presidents Maria Estela Martinez de Peron and Arturo Frondizi maintained close relations, but Peron's widow broke this when Frondizi "talked to her about the coup."

He also said that the decision to appoint General Francisco Gassipo as Army head "was exclusively made by the president," and that the purpose was to integrate "a leadership with men from the three forces" (Infantry, Cavalry, and Artillery).

"The object was to avoid an internal struggle," because "under (General Humberto) Ferrucci, infantry officers controlled everything," Suarez said.

He added that "something similar happened with (General Roberto) Dominguez, who was about to be appointed and at the last moment he was ruled out."

Facundo Suarez rejected the charges raised against the SIDE by Carlos Menem and Deputy Julio Corzo. Regarding the presidential candidates, Suarez said: "We give them safety," because President Raul Alfonsin "wants them to have the best security when they travel, and wants no riots or attacks to take place."

He said that he believes that the SIDE "must reserve itself for strategic intelligence, and cooperate in other issues with the police in cases of drug trafficking, or the Armed Forces."

He also said that "the Armed Forces do not have internal intelligence targets, but in cases of spying we logically work together," although he remarked that "it is nearly impossible to determine the limits of internal intelligence."

As an example, Suarez mentioned that "the Navy was very interested" in the robbery that occurred in Mataderos district in this capital during which two Navy officers died. However, he said, all the information the Navy obtains "is either from the police or from the SIDE."

Regarding the Mataderos case, he said that "there are no doubts that those involved in it were connected with guerrillas," but he added that it is "risky" to consider it as a return of subversion.

When speaking of the different operations of the SIDE and of the military intelligence services, Suarez admitted that his organization has a man in Panama, but his duty was not to watch Colonel Seineldin, because "it is not for the SIDE, but rather for the Army."

He added that on the other hand, "Seineldin did not seem to be a risk for the institutions," and that "according to our reports, some civilians were just trying to convince him, but they were unsuccessful."

"It seemed as though those civilians were betting more on (former lieutenant Aldo) Rico than on Seineldin," Suarez said.

After stating that the SIDE was warned of the Holy Week uprisings in Montecaseros and Villa Martelli, he admitted that "We were completely surprised by the Albatros command; we did not have the least bit of information. It was perfect from a military point of view."

He also acknowledged that the SIDE did not learn of Mrs Peron's wish to return to the country, although "she was not an intelligence target," because the SIDE "was not commissioned to watch her."

He said that there is a two-man SIDE delegation in Spain, but they are there "to control ultraleft or ultraright guerrilla connections; to prevent them from coming into the country."

"Another important thing is that a lot of information about the British and their movements regarding the Malvinas Islands is collected in Spain," Suarez said. He added that the SIDE also "observes the EEC's economic relations."

Changing the subject, he said that "the SIDE has been depoliticized," and "experienced personnel from the Armed Forces have been hired. I am proud to say that we have integrated military and civilians."

However, he said, "it is logical that the SIDE should be directed by the Radical Civic Union," although, he added, "We also have hired Peronists."

Nicaraguan Envoy Meets Foreign Ministry Official

PY2601000189 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2118 GMT 25 Jan 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 25 Jan (DYN)—Nicaraguan Ambassador Ariel Granera Sacasa has said that the call he paid today on an Argentine Foreign Ministry official was in no way related to press reports on the alleged involvement of Nicaraguan citizens in the attack on the La Tablada 3d Infantry Regiment.

Granera Sacasa met for 45 minutes with Alberto Ferrari Etcheverry, Argentine under secretary for Latin American Affairs.

Upon leaving the Foreign Ministry, Granera Sacasa was asked if his visit was related to a press report on the alleged involvement of Nicaraguan citizens in the La Tablada incident.

After stating that the subject was not discussed at his meeting with Ferrari, Granera Sacasa described the report as "surrealistic."

He added that the Nicaraguan Government supports democratic, constitutional governments and that it is entirely against violence.

The Nicaraguan ambassador stated that he had discussed routine matters with Ferrari.

[Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish at 2117 GMT on 25 January adds the following quote by Ariel Granera Sacasa: "The coffee brigades are made up of citizens of

various ideological affiliations who come to Nicaragua just to pick coffee beans." He added that "the brigade members do not engage in military activities."]

Bilateral Accord Signed With Netherlands

PY2001194589 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 0014 GMT 20 Jan 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 19 Jan (DYN)—Netherlands Foreign Minister Hans Van den Broek today met with President Raul Alfonsin during a special audience at which bilateral relations were analyzed.

Van den Broek and his Argentine counterpart Dante Caputo signed an accord on obligations [words indistinct] of the two countries.

The situation of [words indistinct] who live in Argentina after escaping from the Netherlands where they were tried for war crimes was also reportedly analyzed, although no official information has been released on the subject.

A short communique was issued by the press directorate of the presidency after the audience. It said that the agenda of the meeting, which was attended by Caputo and a small entourage accompanying the visitor, included "issues related to the visit by the minister, which will end tomorrow." The communique added that "there was an exchange of presents" during the meeting.

Van der Broek and Caputo later signed an accord on the military obligations of citizens with dual nationality. The accord was signed during a brief ceremony at San Martin Palace, after the first meeting between the two ministers.

The accord sets forth that those with dual nationality will have to render military service only in the country [words indistinct] in the other country as a volunteer.

The rendering of military service in a country, following the laws of that country, will be legally valid in the other country. Likewise, those exempted from military service in the country in which they live will also be exempted from military service in the other country.

The accord will remain in force for an indefinite period although either country may terminate it through a diplomatic note to the other party.

After signing the accord, the two foreign ministers began another working meeting accompanied by their advisers.

[Words indistinct] the upcoming meeting between the EEC and the Group of Eight to be held in Spain, and bilateral relations, especially as they refer to the Argentine claim for sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands, a position for which the Netherlands have voted at the United Nations since 1985.

Army Food Suppliers Suspend Deliveries

PY2001162489 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0505 GMT 20 Jan 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 19 Jan (EFE)—Food suppliers today decided to suspend deliveries to Army units nationwide beginning Monday, 23 January, because they have not been paid. The decision was made today by businessmen gathered at the Argentine Union of State Suppliers (UAPE), because "the Army has not paid for supplies delivered during the second half of 1988."

UAPE reported, however, that deliveries to Army hospitals and health centers will not be suspended.

The suppliers stated that deliveries will not be resumed until "full guarantees are given by government officials that the long overdue payments will be made immediately."

Bank Officials to U.S. To Negotiate Loan

PY2501185789 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1500 GMT 25 Jan 89

[Text] Central Bank Chairman Jose Luis Machinea and Budget Deputy Secretary (Ricardo Carchioffi) have left for the United States to continue negotiations with the IMF for a $1.25 million stand-by [two previous words in English] loan.

Finance Ministry Secretary Mario Brodersohn has left for Japan to negotiate credits with the Japanese Eximbank.

TV Stations To Broadcast 8 Hours Daily

PY2001145889 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1018 GMT 20 Jan 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 20 Jan (NA)—Through a decree, the government has authorized television stations to increase their transmission time to 8 hours daily, beginning on 1 February.

The decree extends this authorization to all open and cable television stations throughout the country, with the exception of those of Chubut, Santa Cruz, and Misiones Provinces and those of the Tierra del Fuego Territory.

Beginning 1 February, television stations may start broadcasting at 1800, but they all must sign off by 0200 the next morning.

Television broadcast time has been reduced to only 4 hours daily since 7 January, as a result of the serious energy crisis that forced the government to restrict power consumption.

YPF Announces Oil Discovery in Selva Maria
PY2001025689 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish
1848 GMT 19 Jan 89

[Summary] Today, Government Oil Deposit, YPF, announced the discovery of new oil in Selva Maria, Formosa Province. The initial production of the well is 730 cubic meters of oil and 225,000 cubic meters of gas per day. The finding comes in addition to the recent discovery of oil in Chivil, Canada Rica, and Palmar Largo, all in Formosa Province.

*** Poll Shows Menem Down 10 Points, Undecided Up**
33480079a Buenos Aires SOMOS in Spanish
21 Dec 88 pp 22-26

[Impromptu interview with presidential candidates Carlos Menem, Eduardo Angeloz and Alvaro Alsogaray by Julio Cesar Petrarca at a photography studio; date not given; first three paragraphs are introduction]

[Text] A poll indicates that the Menem vote has dropped 10 points in 3 months. The blank ballots and the undecided vote have benefited, not his rivals though. The Peronist, Radical and Liberal candidates spoke with SOMOS about these figures, about the recent military crisis and about the harshness of the campaign. Adelina way ahead. What people think about the country's situation and the future.

According to the most recent poll by the Hugo Kolsky firm, there was a 10-percent drop from August to November in the number of voters who intend to cast their ballots for Carlos Menem. Oddly enough, the drop benefited not the other established candidates, Eduardo Angeloz and Alvaro Alsogaray, but the blank ballots and the undecided.

Figures in hand, SOMOS planted itself in front of the three candidates, taking advantage of their unusual simultaneous presence at the photography studio of Atlantida Publishing. They had agreed to pose together for the photo of the major figures of the year that the magazine GENTE traditionally publishes, and were wearing remarkably conservative dress (except the Peronist, who was wearing a light-colored suit and tie, a sky-blue shirt and with his hair and sideburns somewhat trimmed). Menem and Angeloz had embraced when they met and alongside Alsogaray posed smiling for the cameras. In an aside the three were told about the new poll and spoke up. Alsogaray opened fire with a sarcastic quip:

"It's a mystery of human psychology."

Angeloz chose to be a bit more serious and did not forget the campaign:

"I attribute it to the fact that the election is drawing nearer, and consequently each person is analyzing more deeply what one or the other candidate is proposing."

With Menem still silent, Angeloz got this clarification from SOMOS:

"If they were doing a more in-depth analysis, one would assume that they would take clearer stands, and yet the opposite is happening: the undecided vote is growing..."

"Well...we come out the winners there, because if Carlos drops 10 points, and those 10 points go to the undecided, that's already a good sign," the Cordoba governor said smiling, looking out of the corner of his eye at his La Rioja counterpart, who had this to say in his lifeless voice:

"You should have asked about the Menendez and Associates poll, which shows a 13 point rise for me in the Federal Capital. To me this is the latest poll, and I always go by the latest one."

"I continue to believe in the qualitative polls," Angeloz interrupted.

"It's too early. The number of undecided is still high," Alsogaray chimed in.

"You're still third," SOMOS remarked. "Are you satisfied with that?"

"We're satisfied with first place, but if necessary we'll drop a little," the engineer again quipped.

The issue of numbers was put aside. SOMOS wanted to take advantage of the three being together to fire a question at them:

"What happened with last week's military putsch?"

Angeloz was quick to reply:

"We can tell you what happened if the question is more precise."

"Just that. What happened. This is what the country is asking, and it has not gotten clear-cut answers. Settlement, negotiation, accord, let's leave words aside. Is the crisis over?"

"Let the other candidates speak first. I have the right of reply. I belong to the government," said Angeloz, of course.

And Menem spoke up:

"I think that the crisis is partly over but remains latent. Answers have to be given to the military. Everyone has known for some time the proposals that an inappropriate medium has made. I had warned the nation's president that the Army had been deliberating for quite some time because its problems, which are real, were not being

resolved. The president got angry with me over this. So what happened has again served notice to the national government, as did the two previous incidents."

"Let's leave aside budgets and salaries, which are less controversial issues. The central issue is the trials. What do you think?"

Menem continued:

"We are for the full effectiveness of the institutions. The branches [of government] are operating as they ought to, and in this regard the only possibility is for the judges under the constitution to hand down the pertinent rulings. Those who have not committed crimes do not need to be vindicated."

"Would you vote for the 'per saltum' [passing over certain proceedings]?"

"We would have to talk with the legislators," Menem said. "I don't agree with these procedures that are outside judicial legislation."

The Military, Civilians and the Door to the Barracks

It was Alsogaray's turn, of course:

"I am restricting my analysis to this moment. There has been an accord among military chiefs. Instead of fighting among themselves, they have agreed to achieve what they regard as their necessary grievances. This has prevented bloodshed but has unified the military behind certain premises. The president can say that he has not intervened, but he cannot ignore what has happened. The issue now moves to the political arena, and the political society must say what it wants to do with its armed forces. The armed forces want to know whether they are regarded as mass murderers and killers or combatants who gave the country the opportunity to restore democracy. That question must be answered."

Now it was the Radical candidate's turn:

"The problem goes deeper and cannot be summed up in one question. It started from the very moment that the Armed Forces became another power in the Argentine Republic. I'm not accusing them; this was a wrong turn by Argentine society. It began precisely in 1930, and since then there have been two factors: one, their training; the other, the presence of civilians, in which we cannot hold ourselves blameless, because we have gone knocking on the doors of the barracks: in 1930 the Conservatives against Yrigoyen; in 1955 the Radicals against Peron, and in 1966 the Peronists against Dr Illia."

"I can't let you get away with that..." interrupted Menem.

"This is a fact that history will record," Angeloz cut in. "In other words, we ourselves set the military up as an institution that assumed it was superior to the others. To me it is irreplaceable, but not the only one. On this level, the prosecution of certain members of the armed forces, not the entire armed forces, is on the right track: the judiciary, the ultimate stronghold of the guarantees of society and the individual. These trials must, of course, end as soon as possible. As for the 'per saltum,' this is a recourse that is used so that a sentence never has to be handed down. The trials must end, but with a verdict. As for the rest, the president remains the commander in chief, Caridi the chief of staff; the rebel leader is under arrest and subject to the Military Code; the other rebels are under indictment; there has been no modification of the Due Obedience Law, and no amnesty has been submitted to Congress."

The Peronist candidate still had something to say:

"I don't agree with his claim that we Peronists went knocking on the barracks doors. This is not proven; there is no evidence..."

How the Decibel Level Is Rising

"Yes, of course, just like us in'55," Angeloz retorted.

"If you two aren't going to agree on the past, when are you going to agree on the present and future," asked SOMOS, as Alsogaray stepped aside.

"You don't need to agree to do things well," said Menem. "That's the world of politics, and we aren't wearing uniforms. There is total respect, aside from certain understandable fireworks."

"Are you going to lower the decibel level of the campaign, or will there be further attacks?" asked SOMOS.

"There are no attacks; that's not true," Angeloz said angrily, raising his voice. Menem then chimed in, while the wry smile on Alsogaray's face broadened.

"If I say that Dr Alfonsin is the worst president of all times, is that an attack or not?"

"I would answer you as follows, Carlitos," Angeloz replied. "That's just like saying that the president of the republic is involved in a palace coup..."

"I didn't say that..."

"Then the media are misreporting," the Cordoba governor retorted.

"They are misreporting. I've clarified that a thousand times. I was asking a question, not making an assertion."

"But since you were talking about the administration, who else could you have been talking about but the president!"

"I was asking a question, not making an assertion. It left room for doubt, which makes all the difference."

The Radical candidate then addressed SOMOS, scoffing:

"And you're asking us to lower the decibel level..."

"No, doctor, I just asked whether you were going to lower it..."

"...just so we would raise it."

Angeloz suddenly left the group. Alsogaray said: "I have absolutely nothing to do with this fight." And Menem retorted: "No one is fighting here, but even if Angeloz says that there are no attacks, I feel attacked."

The time for GENTE'S big photo had come, so the interview concluded. It had begun with one of the many campaign polls, which indicates that Angeloz and Alsogaray are at the same level as last August, that United Left is the number four force and that the number of undecided voters is on the rise.

The Kolsky survey has other interesting findings. Were it possible to elect a mayor of the Federal Capital, 28 percent would give their vote to Adelina de Viola of the UCD [Democratic Center Union], 23 percent would vote for the Peronist Carlos Grosso and 18 percent for the Radical Facundo Suarez Lastra. Support for the three increased from August to November, but Grosso posted the biggest jump, almost sextupling his support.

One finding that will please the administration is that people's perception of the country's situation has improved over 6 month's time. Between April and November the number who thought that things have gotten worse fell by 20 percent, although the 54 percent who feel that way today still exceed the October 1987 level.

The group of people who sense a better future has remained stable, but there has been a slight increase in the number of those who think it will remain the same, which would reflect a positive image, given the relative control of inflation. Concurrently, the percentage of those who think that their personal future will be worse has fallen to 47, and the category of those who feel that there will be no changes has grown to 30 percent.

The percentage of those who describe the results of economic policy as poor has also fallen, while the "so-so" category is up four points and the response "good" is up one.

If we take the 1987 vote as a benchmark, only 44 percent of the Radical voters have reportedly decided to vote for Angeloz, 7 percent have moved over to the Peronist Party and 5 percent to Liberalism. Peronism reportedly has 36 percent of its 1987 vote confirmed. Sixty-two percent of the UCD voters would again support the party, although 7 percent have moved over to Radicalism and 25 percent do not know what to do.

One curious finding of the Kolsky poll is that the main candidates have not thoroughly convinced the electorate; almost half of the voters do not recall what their proposals are. There are at least two explanations. Either they are not interesting, or they do not seem believable enough to commit to memory.

Bolivia

Gen Peredo on Military's Role in Elections

PY2101183389 La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 15 Jan 89 p 1

[Text] "The Armed Forces are following with optimism and interest the Bolivian election process, and they reiterate that they are apolitical, completely avoiding party activities."

This was stated by Armed Forces Commander in Chief General Edwin Peredo Camacho in an interview granted to EL DIARIO. He said that the Armed Forces will guarantee the general elections, "in order to strengthen the Bolivian democratic system and to help solve the economic crisis."

"It must be recalled that the Armed Forces are apolitical, and, based on this principle, all of its members will comply with their civic duties by refraining from political activities," he said. Gen Peredo said that the Armed Forces are following with optimism the electoral process and the activities of the parties, fronts, and coalitions, "which are typical of a characteristic democratic movement such as general elections."

Gen Peredo said that the Armed Forces will contribute to the proper development of the elections by instructing the young conscript recruited for obligatory mili ary service in 1989 in civic lessons on what the general elections represent.

Through this process, the conscripts will learn of the democratic value of the elections, which every 4 years renew the national government and congress by will of the Bolivian people.

"Those who dare to charge the Armed Forces with forcing the conscripts—who are minors, as is known—to vote in the elections—as some politicians have wrongly charged in the past—will have to prove those accusations if they make them again," Gen Peredo said.

"We guarantee that the Armed Forces will not interfere in the elections or in political activities, and whoever hints at such possibility will have to produce conclusive evidence," he added.

Gen Peredo said that only retired military members or those who are definitely separated from the institution have the right to participate in the activities they want, "and in doing so they are not compromising the Armed Forces."

He said that no military establishment will be used as a voting station; that is, they will not allow either ballot boxes or political party representatives on their grounds. In this way they will avoid giving the wrong impression.

1988 Foreign Debt Payments Reported
PY2101222189 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 16 Jan 89 p 1

[Summary] Based on information obtained at the department of balance of trade and balance of payments of the Bolivian Central Bank, the "Muller y Asociados" consulting firm has reported that Bolivia paid $241.55 million to service its foreign debt in 1988.

New Military Household Chief Appointed
PY2101165989 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 18 Jan 89 p 8

[Summary] During a ceremony yesterday in Government House, the new chief of the Military Household and the new aides de camp were presented to the president. The new Military Household chief is General Raul Villarroel Villarroel. The chief of aides de camp is Lieutenant Colonel Osvaldo Bedregal Palomo (ratified), and the new aides de camp are Lieutenant Colonel Jose Antonio Mercado Arze (ratified), Major Cesar Lopez Saavedra, Major Guillermo Merritt Rodriguez, Major Jose Alberto Colodro Darwich, Corvette Captain Jose Zerdas Beltran, Corvett Captain Manuel Revollo Herbas, (Police) Major David Diaz Vargas, and (Police) Major Ismael Zuniga (ratified).

Gamberos Installed as Interpol Chief
PY2101172789 La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 14 Jan 89 p 6

[Summary] Colonel Carlos Gamberos Bolanos has been installed as chief of the Interpol office in Bolivia. He replaces Colonel Dillman Guzman.

Brazil

Sarney Creates New Enviroment Secretariat
PY2401230389 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2100 GMT 24 Jan 89

[Summary] President Jose Sarney has created the Brazilian Enviroment Institute of Natural Renewable Resources [Institute Brasileiro do Meio Ambiente dos Recursos Naturais Renovaveis]. It will replace the Special Enviroment Secretariat and the Superintendency for Development of the Fishing Industry, SUDEPE, which were abolished by the administrative reform.

The new institute will be dependent on the Interior Ministry and will absorb the responsibilities, properties and personnel from the Rubber Superintendency and the Brazilian Forest Development Institute, which were also abolished by the administrative reform.

Sarney Appoints New Petrobras Chairman
PY2101024789 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2155 GMT 20 Jan 89

[Summary] Orlando Galvao Filho, former manager of Petrobras' office in New York, was formally invited by President Sarney at the Pericuma small farm to be Petrobras' new chairman. Galvao Filho, 48, who was born in Bahia State, will be installed next week.

Ulysses Guimaraes To Amend Sarney's Plan
PY2101022089 Rio de Janeiro Redo Globo Television in Portuguese 2155 GMT 20 Jan 89

[Excerpts] After a trip abroad, Deputy Ulysses Guimaraes returned to Brasilia and said he will present amendments to Sarney's plan. The PMDB president and Chamber of Deputies chairman arrived in Brasilia at 1630.

Upon leaving the Air Force base, Guimaraes told reporters that he will discuss the possibility of congress changing the so-called Provisional Measures the government used to implement the economic reform. [passage omitted]

Regarding the dismissal of public employees, Guimaraes confirmed that this is President Sarney's responsibility. [passage omitted]

Guimaraes also admitted that some amendments may have to be made to the Summer Plan salary policy. [passage omitted]

Industrial Development Ministry Created
PY2401230189 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2100 GMT 24 Jan 89

[Summary] President Sarney today signed a decree creating the organization and operation of the Industrial Development, Science and Technology Ministry. The new ministry was created by a provisional measure on 15 January to replace the Industry and Commerce Ministry and the Science and Technology Ministry.

Report Explains Lack of Foreign Reserves
PY2101010889 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 20 Jan 89 p B 1

[Text] Brazil is exporting to countries that are not paying for their purchases. This is why last year's trade surplus of $19 billion is not reflected in a satisfactory increase of

Brazil's foreign reserves. With the incentive measures, Brazilian enterprises are selling to African countries that delay or do not pay for their purchases.

Those sales are entered into the trade balance records, thus contributing to the increased surplus, but the foreign currencies do not actually enter the country's till. A Central Bank report that will be submitted to Finance Minister Mailson da Nobrega reveals other factors responsible for trade-balance surpluses failing to have an impact on the country's foreign reserves.

One of them is interest payments to our foreign creditors. Last year, Brazil remitted $9.9 billion abroad in foreign debt service payments. This year, these programmed payments amount to $10.1 billion.

Another factor the Central Bank points out for this mismatch between trade-balance surplus and foreign reserves level is the financing of exports. The report explains that many export operations are entered into the trade balance records one year, but do not contribute to the foreign reserves increase on the same year. This is so because, although the exporters are paid for their sales, the money comes in only when the financing installments under lines of credit fall due.

Chile

Union To Boycott 'Indiana I' Ferry

PY2001012289 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2116 GMT 19 Jan 89

[Text] Santiago, 19 Jan (TELAM-ANSA)—Diego Olivares, acting president of the Central Labor Union (CUT), announced here today that the workers in Punta Arenas, the southernmost zone of Chile, will boycott the "Indiana I" when it arrives.

Olivares said that the workers affiliated with the Dockworkers Confederation [Confederacion de Gente de Mar] and the Chilean Maritime Workers Union, both affiliated with the CUT, will "not grant services" to the vessel that intends to link the Malvinas Islands with Montevideo and Punta Arenas.

The CUT leader added that the union's regional branch in Punta Arenas is preparing demonstrations for when the vessel arrives there.

Olivares said that he had received a telegram from Argentine Union leader Saul Ubaldini requesting the solidarity of the Chilean workers in view of the "Indiana I" intrusion.

Moreover, the National Federation of Oil Workers sent a telegram to Argentine Ambassador to Chile Jose Maria Alvarez de Toledo, voicing solidarity with the Argentine claim of sovereignty over the archipelago occupied by Great Britain.

The letter says that "the workers will do anything we can to prevent any Chilean aid being given—even indirectly—to the illegal occupiers of the Malvinas Islands."

British Foreign Ministry Official Departs

PY2001000389 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 19 Jan 89

[Text] (Robin Sweal), British deputy secretary for Latin American affairs, left today after concluding an official 5-day visit. Fearn was seen off at the Arturo Merino Benitez International Airport by British Embassy officials.

During his stay in Santiago Fearn met with the Chilean foreign minister, the acting finance minister, the under secretary of the Interior Ministry, and other officials.

Before being appointed to this current post, Fearn was British ambassador to Havana. He also held diplomatic posts in Caracas, Budapest, Vietnam, and Islamabad.

1989 Privatization Plan Disclosed

PY1801220989 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0506 GMT 18 Jan 89

[Text] Santiago, 17 Jan (EFE)—The Production Development Corporation (Corfo) today disclosed the privatization plan for 11 companies, including the telephone company and the National Airlines (LAN).

Manuel Macaya, Corfo normalization manager, said that in 1989 the company plans to sell 80 percent of the capital that Corfo has in Edelnor, Electric Company of the North.

Regarding the Chilean Telephone Company (CTC), in which the Australian multinational Bond Group has majority holdings, Corfo announced that it will sell the 14 percent of the shares it still holds in order to complete the privatization.

Macaya also announced that Entel (National Telecommunications Enterprise) will be 87.5 percent privatized in 1989.

Currently 62 percent of this company is already in private hands, another 10 percent is committed to the Army Ordnance, and the remaining 28 percent will be put on sale.

Three electric companies will be privatized this year. They are Endesa [National Electric Poer, Inc.]—10 percent of which remains to be sold—and Colbun and Pehueneche—two companies in the southern part of the country.

Regarding LAN-Chile, 16 percent of which is in private hands, Macaya said that studies are being conducted to increase the percentage for sale, after an international bid for the sale of 32 percent of the shares was turned down late last year because of an insufficient number of bids.

Corfo will also offer to sell its shares of the Chilean Lithium Society. The U.S. Foote Mineral Company owns 80 percent of the lithium enterprise, and the remianing 20 percent belongs to Corfo.

Corfo will also sell at least 33 percent of its shares in two insurance companies: Ise Generals and Ise Vida. It will also sell part of its capital in Enacar [National Coal Enterprise], which also sells agricultural products, and in Edelaysen, which is a state power company in southern Chile.

Private Firms Pay $292 Million of Foreign Debt

PY2401125689 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 0930 GMT 24 Jan 89

[Text] Chilean companies have paid $292 million of their foreign debt in the last few months. The repayment operations were made in local currency within the framework of the new flexibility clauses negotiated with foreign banks. This is the second of the mechanisms for debt repayment that were negotiated by the country, and are included in the contract of debt payment flexibility.

At the end of last year the Central Bank organized an international auction to buy back $298 million of the foreign debt. The latest operations mean that a total of $591 million has been paid by the country on its foreign debt.

Oil Discovery in Magallanes Announced

PY2001155089 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 0930 GMT 20 Jan 89

[Summary] ENAP [National Petroleum Enterprise] has confirmed the discovery of petroleum in Magallanes. It adds that the discovery was made off the eastern mouth of the Magallanes strait. According to ENAP, this discovery is the result of a research program aimed at finding new deposits to balance the drop in production of old wells.

The well is 1,800 meters deep, and initial tests indicated a daily production of 30-50 cubic meters.

MIR Terrorists Execute Liquor Store Owner

PY2401132589 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 0930 GMT 24 Jan 89

[Text] Four terrorists from the Movement of the Revolutionary Left [MIR] executed a shop owner because of difference of opinions and to terrorize the population.

The victim, identified as Juan Moya, was shot in the abdomen and the chest. According to witnesses, the murderers burst into the liquor store located on 3644 Street, and shot Moya, who was standing behind the counter, at point blank range.

The terrorists disseminated pamphlets saying: The people accuse you, and the MIR executes you. They escaped in a car outside that they had left with the motor running.

The security personnel withdrew from the area after the homicide squad arrived to investigate the killing.

Colombia

Serpa Uribe on Talks With Paramilitary Groups

PA2101233689 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 Jan 89

[Passages in quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Attorney General Horacio Serpa Uribe today proposed including a possible dialogue with paramilitary groups as part of the current peace process in Colombia. This possibility was categorically rejected by Rafael Pardo Rueda, presidential adviser for peace, this past weekend. However, Serpa Uribe said today that the government should begin talks with the promoters and financers of paramilitary groups.

[Reporter] "Are you specifically in favor of holding talks with these groups in our country?

[Serpa Uribe] "I favor talks in our country with those who have promoted talks in the past.

[Reporter] "The leaders?

[Serpa Uribe] "Not with those who carry out these criminal actions, since they have been hired by someone else.

[Reporter] "So talks should be with those who hired them?

[Serpa Uribe] "The dialogue should be with those who believe they are helping the country by encouraging these actions, but who are instead destroying it."

Without ruling out the possibility that the FARC could be responsible for the recent murder of 12 judges, Serpa Uribe said that there are also reasons to believe that they were killed by a paramilitary group: First, the judges were investigating crimes attributed to paralimitary groups; second, although the FARC once controlled the area where the crime was committed, paramilitary groups have taken control of that area.

Serpa Uribe added that the government should hold talks and at the same time continue its struggle against paramilitary actions.

[Serpa Uribe] "We should fight antiguerrillas in the same way we fight guerrillas."

Serpa Uribe said that the state is not capable of guaranteeing the right to life of Colombians.

[Reporter] "Are the paramilitary groups, guerrillas, and all the groups sowing violence in Colombia winning the battle against the government?

[Serpa Uribe] "Yes, they are winning the battle. Not only is the government losing the battle, but all of us are: the Attorney General's Office, the judges, the police forces. Why are they winning the battle? Because one of our duties—the authorities' duties—is to provide security and protect the lives of Colombians. However, despite all the efforts and good intentions, the results are negative. More and more people are being killed every day, so they are winning the battle."

Military Chiefs Support Tolima Peace Plan

PA2301045189 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0100 GMT 23 Jan 89

[Text] The highest-ranking officers in the Colombian Armed Forces—that is, the generals of the Army, Police, Air Force, and Navy commanders—decided to give their support to the agreement recently achieved by the government and the M-19 in Tolima Department.

The officers met 8 days ago at the invitation of Defense Minister General [Jaime] Guerrero and agreed to give their full support to the Tolima peace plan because, among other reasons, the generals say, the government's principles have not been compromised in that agreement.

On the same subject, there is an exclusive item of news that has gone by unnoticed over the past few days. A few days before the government commission set off on its journey to Tolima Department, Defense Minister General Guerrero told the president's peace advisor, Rafael Pardo Rueda, to tell [M-19 leader] Carlos Pizarro Leongomez not to waste this opportunity because it might be the last—because if this attempt fails, it will not be the country or the government that will have failed, but the guerrillas themselves.

Dr Pardo Rueda conveyed the defense minister's message to the leader of the M-19.

Brigade Commander Comments

PA2101031689 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 19 Jan 89

[Humberto Brines report]

[Text] A change of command ceremony has taken place at the 9th Brigade headquarters in the city of Neiva. The ceremonies were held at the parade grounds of the 9th Brigade's (Tenerife) Battalion.

When asked about the mission that he will carry out at the head of the 9th Brigade, Colonel Arevala said that he will work to defend the interests of the fatherland, and that he supports the government's dialogue with subversive groups.

[Begin Arevalo recording] Dialogue is the first step, the civilized way to solve all the world's problems; however, this cannot be a dialogue of deaf people, or a dialogue in which each of the parties pledge to do things that they later fail to do. [end recording]

The new commander replaces Colonel Bernardo Ramirez, who headed the unit for almost 2 years before being transferred to Spain as a military attache.

Further on FARC Arms Shipment From Portugal

President Barco Comments

PA2001130689 Bogota Inravision Television Candena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Jan 89

[Text] During today's New Year's greeting speech to the diplomatic corps, Colombian President Virgilio Barco briefly commented on arms shipments. The ceremony was attended by ambassadors, heads of missions, and diplomatic officials accredited to Colombia. [Manuel Zaide], Portugal's ambassador to Colombia, was present at the event. The weapons President Barco referred to during the ceremony were shipped to the FARC from Portugal and were seized in Jamaica.

[Begin Barco recording] On many occasions in the past, I have stressed the need for halting the conventional arms buildup. Indifference to and complicity in illegal weapons trafficking gives the enemies of democracy, regardless of who these enemies may be, the necessary means to fulfill their deadly objectives. Colombia has called for an end to weapons trafficking as well as an end to the production and use of chemical weapons, which could plunge mankind into war and death. [end recording]

Foreign Minister Cited

PA2201184789 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 20 Jan 89

[Report by Antonio Jose Caballero]

[Text] The Colombian Government is bent on clarifying the case of the weapons that were sent from Portugal to the subversive groups. We talked with Foreign Minister Julio Londono Paredes, who celebrated his 20 years in service today at the Foreign Ministry. A top-level military commission went to Portugal and is talking directly to the Portuguese Defense Ministry to investigate what really happened with the arms contraband shipped for FARC. The commission is led by General Camilo Hernando Zuniga, chief of the Army General Staff.

Another commission is in Panama, finding out what the government of Manuel Solis Palma and General Manuel Antonio Noriega will do with the "Copacabana," the ship that brought the weapons shipment to Jamaica. The ship has a Panamanian registry and is currently anchored in Panamanian waters. The commission will try to obtain more information about the ship and find out what the Panamanian authorities plan to do with it.

Foreign Minister Londono announced today the Colombian Government sent a high-ranking military commission to Portugal to contact the Defense Ministry in that country and obtain information on the arms contraband destined for FARC and confiscated in Jamaica. Also, Colonel Silvio Londono Barrera and Colonel Fabio Alonso Quijano were sent to Panama to find out what will be done about the ship "Copacabana."

[Londono] The high-ranking Colombian officers will essentially talk with the corresponding Portuguese authorities about the case.

[Caballero] Mr Minister, the ship "Copacabana," which carried the weapons from Portugal to Jamaica, is in Panama. Have there been any talks with the Panamanian Government?

[Londono] The Colombian military authorities have already contacted the Panamanian authorities concerning the case, and I understand they have been very cooperative. Naturally, the Defense Ministry has the exact information.

[Caballero] Mr Minister, you celebrate 20 years in service today; what have been the most outstanding events in Colombia's foreign service?

[Londono] The most satisfying thing for me is that I have never requested—or established contacts through third parties—any post, not even for my appointment at the Foreign Ministry, subsequent promotions within the ministry, or any other cause.

Investigation To Include Panama

PA2201042389 Bogota Inravision Televison Cadena 1 in Spanish 0100 GMT 22 Jan 89

[Excerpt] The Colombian Defense Ministry has initiated investigations in Panama and Portugal to look into the connections that were made in those countries to smuggle into Colombia the shipment of weapons seized in Jamaica. This will be a very difficult task, given the increasingly large and uncontrolled international weapons market. [passage omitted]

FARC Leader Calls Case 'Hoax'

PA2201125989 Bogota LA PRENSA in Spanish 10 Jan 89 p 10

[Text] Jacobo Arenas, member of the FARC General Staff, denied during an interview with LA PRENSA that the weapons seized in Jamaica were being sent to the guerrilla group. "It is all a hoax, a trick to damage the peace policy. We declared a unilateral cease-fire, and a majority of the people support that policy, which advocates Senator Leyva Duran's peace plan," he said over a radio telephone.

According to the guerrilla leader, certain people do not like that policy, because they "are trying to undermine the process. It is all a hoax," he asserted on several occasions. "Those weapons were not for us," he reasserted during the brief dialogue with this newspaper.

Arenas said he had closely followed the radio stations' reports after hearing about the weapons' seizure. "Some English, Panamanian, and Colombian gentlemen went to the FRG and purchased enormous quantities of weapons on behalf of the Colombian Government. The weapons were purchased and shipped, and later showed up in Jamaica, where the authorities seized the shipment. The Colombian authorities presented the Colombian citizens, but I ask: Where are the other prisoners?"

Jacobo Arenas believes this and other questions that arose since the case was discovered during the weekend will be cleared up today during a news conference by Defense Minister Manuel Jaime Guerrero Paz. "We must wait for the minister's statements, because it is not a matter of simply issuing statements without proper grounds or evidence. We know about the Colombian citizens, and we will see who they are, where they come from, and what really happened."

Jacobo Arenas also referred to yesterday's dialogue between the government and the M-19. In his opinion, the government only wants to talk with one interlocutor. "The government and its advisers believe it is better to talk separately, and I tell them that they are wrong."

Asked if the government is trying to divide the Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board through the first dialogue, Jacobo Arenas answered that the government is "trying to weaken it," but the guerrilla

coordinating board "has accepted the principle of a political philosophy based on unity. I can meet with a government representative and discuss several topics, but I cannot reach an agreement without the coordinating board's approval."

He was then asked if he would be willing to support the results attained during the first government-M-19 talks. Arenas answered that he would learn about the results later on, but added that if the government decides to create a high-level commission "to explore the minimum conditions for a peace plan, we will agree." He also asserted: "We will not support a declaration against the Guerrilla Coordinating Board's unity."

Portuguese Defense Criticized

PA2301025289 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 17 Jan 89 p 4-A

[Article by Luis Carlos Delgado: "Portugal Washes Its Hands"]

[Text] The Portuguese Government sold the 10 tons of weapons seized in Jamaica, which were intended for the FARC, and it did so based upon a single document, the "final destination" document, which was forged.

A statement to this effect issued by the Portuguese Defense Ministry in Lisbon, capital of Portugal, was broadcast by the official news agency LUSA and rebroadcast to the world by international press agencies.

Portugal, however, has washed its hands: "Although the documents (the ones used to sell the weapons) were forged in Colombia...everything is in order and legal in Portugal," the Defense Ministry said.

The Portuguese Defense Ministry statement maintains that the weapons were ordered from the Portuguese National Defense Industry [Industria Nacional de Defensa de Portugal—INDEP] by the Colombian Government. "The documents"—the communique states—"were signed by an authorized person whose signature was authenticated by a notary in Bogota on 15 June, which proves the sale was legal." The communique adds: "Everything was legal as far as we are concerned, and we were paid in full for the sale."

"The documents" Portugal is referring to are actually only one document: the "final destination" document, which Colombian Defense Minister General Manuel Jaime Guerrero Paz confirmed was a forgery during an appearance on television on Saturday. This was detected by the signature of Colonel Alfonso Espitia Castillo, chief of weapons and ammunition trade at the Defense Ministry, and by the seals and authentication used.

In substance, the "final destination" document, as Portugal says, has the signature of Col Espitia authenticated by Jaime Angulo Bosa, Bogota Notary No 14, on 15 June.

That document is a government purchase statement which pledges that the weapons will be used solely by the military forces and will not be sold to third parties. The Portuguese Government, however, failed to explain several facts:

First, a notary's authentication is not valid for an arms sale between governments because that type of authentication is done at the respective consulates. A notary's signature can easily be forged.

In this case, it was certainly forged and in a "clumsy" manner, as the defense minister would say.

According to Bogota's Notary No 14, Jaime Angulo Bossa, neither the seals nor the signature belong to that notary office. There is even more: The forgery does not even have the fingerprint of the signatory, a requirement for any authentication.

The notary added that these types of authentications are not done by him or by any other notary because it is a very delicate matter. Second, INDEP Director Antonio Cristobal told EL TIEMPO last Wednesday that even if Portugal sells weapons to private citizens, consultations between foreign ministries are always held to determine "the final destination." "The seller country, in this case Portugal, checks with the buyer country, Colombia, regarding the authenticity of the person buying the weapons. The foreign ministries are responsible for this procedure," Cristobal said.

However, the Colombian Consulate in Lisbon, the Foreign Ministry in Bogota, and the Defense Ministry have stated that at no time did the Portuguese Government consult with them to verify whether or not the "final destination" was acceptable.

A Colombian Defense Ministry source said in this regard yesterday: "The sale of weapons of these types is handled exclusively between governments, because they are for the exclusive use of military forces. Portugal, however, did not verify anything. It only accepted a piece of paper given to them by the arms traffickers. A man shows up to purchase thousands of rifles, hundreds of machineguns, and dozens of mortars with a single piece of forged paper and Portugal agrees to make the sale, without further question."

Third, it is hard to believe that an arms deal of this kind—when supposedly the Colombian Foreign Ministry was making the purchase—could be struck by a middleman based in Panama (Bluewater Ship Management Inc.). Why did Portugal not even verify whether the middleman was authorized by Colombia to make the purchase?

Fourth, according to the "final destination" document, there were 3,000 rifles; 750 machineguns; 75 60-mm mortars; 30 81-mm mortars; and 600 60-mm mortar units. Where is the rest of the arms shipment? In Jamaica

only 1,000 rifles, 250 machineguns, 60 60-mm mortars, and 600 60-mm mortar units were confiscated. Has Portugal already shipped them, or are the weapons still in warehouses?

The Colombian Foreign Ministry source said Portugal still has the rest of the weapons because the arms traffickers did not have the transportation facilities to take them all at once. The question is: If Portugal continues to say that the purchase was legal and still has the weapons in its possession, will it deliver them to the arms traffickers anyway, even though Colombia has proven the sale is illegal and that the weapons were being sent to the guerrillas?

"To say the Portuguese Government is willing to sell weapons to international traffickers or guerrilla movements is unthinkable," according to a Portuguese Defense Ministry source questioned by AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE.

The unthinkable, however, has happened, and it seems Portugal made a big mistake by selling weapons to what turned out to be Colombian guerrillas and not to the legally instituted military forces.

Threatened UP Leaders Leave Country

PA2001235789 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0620 GMT 19 Jan 89

[Text] Bogota, 18 Jan (EFE)—Colombia's third largest party, the leftist Patriotic Union (UP), has sent its top leaders out of the country due to the constant death threats they have received and because of the discovery of a plot against their lives.

UP International Relations Director Alvaro Salazar today revealed that the party's four top leaders have received threats and that "two of them have already left Colombia."

Salazar said Bernardo Jaramillo, UP National Coordinating Board president, who has been abroad since last December, has been ordered not to return to Colombia.

He added that, "thanks to a friendly Army officer who leaked the information," the UP had learned of a plan to "murder Jaramillo upon his arrival in Colombia, right at the Bogota airport."

Alvaro Salazar further claimed that "National Vice President Jaime Corena has also had to leave Colombia; if he stays here, he will die."

Salazar added that the party's current secretary, Jose Antequera, and National Directorate member Oscar Duenas are among the other people who have received threats.

Salazar maintained that "popular leaders have to resort to self-exile because this government does not offer any guarantee of their lives," adding that "the official bodyguards they give us are not enough." The UP leaders' bodyguards are from the Administrative Department of Security (DAS).

Salazar said "the paramilitary groups—which are a product of the Armed Forces—should be ordered to stop attacking us. That would be our best guarantee."

Salazar pointed out that 14 active UP members, including 5 councilmen, have been murdered throughout Colombia in the first 2 weeks of 1989. In other words, there has been a murder a day.

Over a thousand UP members have been murdered in Colombia since the party was founded in 1985, including Jaime Pardo Leal, the party's first president and presidential candidate. Pardo Leal was murdered in October 1987.

The UP encompasses Colombia's political left wing, which had been divided prior to 1985. Some of the UP's members were formerly involved in guerrilla groups, mainly the FARC.

Leftist Groups Ask To Join Peace Talks

PA2201021689 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1918 GMT 20 Jan 89

[Text] Bogota, 19 Jan (DPA)—The Colombian leftist groups To Fight [A Luchar] (AL) and Popular Front [Frente Popular] (FP) recently asked the government to include them in the announced round of negotiations with guerrilla groups, although they have no representation in Congress. This is a basic requirement in the peace agreement signed several days ago between Rafael Pardo Rueda, adviser for reconciliation, normalization, and rehabilation, and the M-19's General Commander Carlos Pizarro Leongomez.

At a news conference, also attended by spokesmen for the Patriotic Union (UP), the country's major leftist group, AL and FP leaders said that for the dialogue to succeed, all the guerrilla and political movements must participate.

The agreement in principle signed by the Colombian Government and the M-19 established talks between the rebel organizations and the political parties represented in Congress; that is, the ruling Liberal Party, the Social Conservative Party, and the UP.

The leftist leaders mentioned reports of a "plan to exterminate" leftist militants prepared by right-wing paramilitary groups operating in the Middle Magdalena region, a broad area in the interior of the country.

An alleged paramilitary group in that region yesterday killed 12 persons who were part of a judicial commission investigating the murders of several peasant and political leaders.

Supreme Court Overturns News Reporting Ban
PA2101215189 Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 20 Jan 89

[Text] The Supreme Court of Justice has stated that the government decree of 27 October 1988 that prohibited radio and television stations from covering the general strike is unconstitutional. The high tribunal explained that the government cannot use the state of siege as an excuse to ban this type of reporting. In his statement, Magistrate Jaime Salinas said that the government overstepped its authority when it imposed silence on the media.

Finance Minister on Debt Policy, Economy
PA2301044089 Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 16 Jan 89 p 2-B

["Exclusive" Interview with Finance and Public Credit Minister Luis Fernando Alarcon Mantilla by Leon Pio Acosta Zambrano in Bogota—date not given]

[Text] EL SIGLO: Mr. Minister, the Latin American countries have agreed to renegotiate debt payments, and in some cases, such as Venezuela, have decided to suspend the payments. What is Colombia's stand regarding this problem in 1989?

LFAM: The Colombian Government has been insisting that the country must be allowed to handle the debt through new credit operations rather than through more traumatic options that could result in many complexities, such as the signing of debt-reorganization agreements. These agreements could become obstacles in the management of our economy. For its part, the government has noted that, eventually, a renegotiation of the debt may become necessary if the situation in international markets warrants it.

Colombia has been involved in credit operations with international banks, such as the "Jumbo" and the "Concorde" credits. Fortunately, a new operation for 1.7 billion pesos was agreed on under very satisfactory conditions. This is a step forward in efforts to improve the country's economic situation.

With this credit operation, Colombia secures the foreign financing it needs until late 1990. Therefore, President Barco will be able to end his term in office without any difficulties on the economic front and will turn over to the next administration an adequate financing plan for up to late 1990.

EL SIGLO: Which are the countries that, like Colombia, are investing 45 percent of their resources in debt payments?

LFAM: The truth is that one must look at this figure carefully. It is true that Colombia's debt service amounts to approximately 45 percent of its exports; however, it must be noted that that figure also includes the interest payment as well as the amortization. To the extent that the country obtains new credits, which are higher than the amortization payments that Colombia must make, the figure that becomes important is the one that represents the interest payments, which may rise to 20 percent or so of the total exports. This is the relevant figure and, certainly, the burden of the debt as a proportion of GNP or the cost of servicing it, as a proportion of exports, is not as bad in Colombia as in most debtor countries. The truth is that Colombia has been able to handle the foreign debt in a way that has not resulted in levels of overindebtedness, as has occurred in other countries and has led them to the difficulties they are facing today.

EL SIGLO: Mr. Minister, official estimates indicate that there will be a 4.5 percent rate of growth in 1989. Does the government hope to cut down unemployment with this growth rate?

LFAM: In regard to employment and unemployment, very significant progress has been made in the past 2 years because the unemployment rate is approximately 10 percent. The government hopes to continue reducing the unemployment figure during the remainder of this administration and to end its term with less than 10 percent unemployment. We believe that this is very possible because the conditions for sustained growth are present in the economy. This is one of the administration's great social achievements that must be preserved and strengthened.

EL SIGLO: One aspect of the financial situation is the readjustment of pensions. Is this measure financed?

LFAM: The Social Security Institute will finance this readjustment for private-sector retirees. The National Welfare Institute will cover the readjustment for public-sector retirees.

Large expenditures of the National Welfare Institute have a great impact on public finances. These expenditures must be less than 2 billion pesos this year. The readjustment figure was duly taken into account when the bill for this was drafted and passed. Therefore, there should be no great difficulties in this regard, despite the financial problems that the Welfare Institute always has to face.

EL SIGLO: Low-income housing is another state subsidy. This is a decision that the Monetary Board just made. Is there a possibility that this benefit will be given retroactively to those who are facing the Constant Purchasing Power Units, UPAC [Unidades de Poder Acquisitivo Constante] problem?

LFAM: What has happened to the financing of low-income houses? Traditionally, the Territorial Credit Institute [ICT] has been the most active agency in this area. This institute finances the construction of houses for the poorest classes. However, for some time, the ICT, through its financing programs, has been subsidizing those who use the ICT system.

But it is also true that, for a large number of those using the system, savings and mortgage associations, meaning the private sector, have been offering housing programs through the so-called UPAC system.

The recently approved urban reform law in some way restricts the possibilities that savings and mortgage associations have to grant financing because the law bans them from granting loans for houses costing less than 135 minimum salaries [135 salarios minimos], which is equivalent to approximately 1,200 UPACs. Therefore, in light of this measure, these associations must focus their efforts on financing houses that cost more than the 1,200 UPACs. This does not mean that the system will not help in the financing of houses for low- and medium-income families, because a large number of houses will be offered to those within the 1,200-5,000 UPAC range.

In other words, 50 percent of the loan portfolio of these savings and mortgage associations will be used to finance houses for low- and medium-income families. However, the conclusion reached from this new plan is that ICT must intensify its efforts to solve the housing problems of low-income families. For this reason, Congress has authorized new funds for the ICT. These funds are obtained from the value-added tax on cement.

In sum, what we have done is adjust the regulations of savings and mortgage associations to the urban reform law and its effects on the housing sector, as well as strengthen state agencies such as the ICT, the BCH [Central Mortgage Bank], and the National Savings Fund, so that they can intensify their efforts to obtain houses for the poor sectors.

EL SIGLO: Wages were increased by 27 percent, but the inflation rate exceeded 28.2 percent at the end of 1988. There has been a decline in purchasing power, more unemployment, and scarcities have arisen. How does the government plan to face this social imbalance?

LFAM: What is really important is to achieve the goverment's goals for fighting inflation in 1989. We feel that the inflation rate this year should not exceed 24 percent and the various instruments of government economic policy will work toward this goal. I believe that the goal of Colombians this year, in contrast to last year, is to fight inflation.

EL SIGLO: Depression is hurting the border area with Ecuador because of a sucre devaluation. Since the border statute has not worked during the Barco administration, what does the government plan to do to reactivate the country's border policy?

LFAM: The truth is that the exchange-rate activity on the border results in instability, which causes the trade flow to change directions in accordance with fluctuations in the exchange rates.

In view of this, the state must play its balancing role, seeking to boost public-spending programs in the border regions.

Venezuela

Delegations Attending Inauguration Announced

PA2101010689 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1730 GMT 19 Jan 89

[Text] Caracas, 19 Jan (DPA)—Fourteen heads of state, 9 heads of government, and delegations from 67 countries have confirmed their attendance at the inauguration of Venezuelan President-elect Carlos Andres Perez on 2 February, Foreign Minister German Nava Carrillo has officially announced.

The official list does not yet include Panamanian President Manuel Solis Palma, who said he will attend, or Cuban President Fidel Castro, whose presence is taken for granted.

Nava Carrillo said he has not yet received any announcement from French President Francois Mitterrand, who might also be there, according to unofficial reports.

The heads of state who have confirmed their attendance are: Rodrigo Borja of Ecuador, Julio Sanguinetti of Uruguay, Alan Garcia of Peru, Virgilio Barco of Colombia, Jose Sarney of Brazil, Mario Soares of Portugal, Raul Alfonsin of Argentina, Clarence Seignoret of Dominica, Daniel Ortega of Nicaragua, Jose Azcona of Honduras, Desmond Hoyte of Guyana, Vinicio Cerezo of Guatemala, and Oscar Arias of Costa Rica. OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soares, of Brazil, will also attend the inauguration.

The heads of government who have confirmed their attendance are: Arthur Robinson of Trinidad and Tobago, Felipe Gonzalez of Spain, Ratu Kamisese Mara of Fiji, Manuel Esquivel of Belize, Maria Liberia-Peters of the Netherlands Antilles, Lloyd Standiford of Barbados, J.F. Mitchell of St Vincent, John Compton of St Lucia, and Henck Arron of Suriname.

Nava Carrillo said 43 of the 67 delegations have identified the members of the delegation and the rest will do so in the next few days.

Although the United States has not officially confirmed this, it will be represented by a delegation headed by Vice President Dan Quayle.

The chiefs of state and of government and the leading guests will have lunch with Perez the day after the inauguration, at which time, the media have reported, they might reach agreements in principle on various topics, including the Central American peace process.

Political observers feel the reason for the large number of foreign delegations is Perez' international prestige, and this will necessitate changes in the traditional protocol as the congress hall will not be large enough for the inaugural ceremony, which will take place at the Teresa Carreno Theater.

Perez' Economic Adviser Outlines 'Adjustments'
PA1701151389 Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 9 Jan 89 p 13-1

[Report by Thamara Nieves on news conference by Reinaldo Figueredo Planchart, economic adviser for President-elect Carlos Perez, with unidentified reporters in Caracas on 9 January]

[Text] Dr Reinaldo Figueredo Planchart, economic adviser for President-elect Carlos Andres Perez, forecasts 1989 will be a "difficult year" because it will be necessary to make some adjustments.

When leaving the residence of [Democratic Action Party President] Dr Gonzalo Barrios, whom he went to greet, Figueredo Planchart briefly outlined to reporters the measures the new administration will reportedly adopt, which are being worked on before Perez takes over on 2 February.

Figueredo Planchart explained that it is not that these measures are within the framework of the IMF dispositions, but that "circumstances simply force the adoption of corrective measures in the foreign, financial, and fiscal sectors."

The expert trusts that the measures being discussed and the analysis made "within the framework of the policy of conciliation" will be accepted by the creditor banks and the creditor countries, all "seeking a substantial reduction in the payment of the debt."

When asked if these measures had been suggested by the IMF, he answered that these are "our policies, our orthodox policies—because adjustments are necessary, because the country needs them, and because we have simply reached the point where it is necessary to make these adjustments."

[Reporter] Are the proposals you will take tomorrow to the creditor banks ready? What are these proposals?

[Figueredo] Yes. I have told you: They touch on three basic aspects of the corrective measures in the financial, foreign, and fiscal sectors. The instruments being used are the same instruments of economic and financial policy. This calls for adopting a series of actions that will be announced by President Perez at the time of his inauguration.

[Reporter] How will that overall program cope with inflation, which is estimated at over 50 percent?

[Figueredo] I do not have that figure, and I do not want to play around with percentages. We know that an adjustment must be made, because it is necessary. However, the purpose of this is to act as President Perez had stated during his electoral campaign: a selective growth in the economy that will be moderate this coming year as a result of the adjustment; a substantial reduction in the payment of the debt; and the expectation of strengthening the country's foreign revenue as a result of the resources that will be obtained from those adjustments.

[Reporter] From among all of these measures, what measures have you taken to prevent the continuing deterioration of the workers' salaries?

[Figueredo] I have already told you: Perez announced during his campaign that he would carry out a government of social efficiency, and that is what is being proposed in terms of the pact and the agreements that are being discussed with the various sectors. That will be the purpose. This is going to be a difficult year because it will be a year of adjustments, but our priority task is to prevent the continuation of the deterioration of the middle class and of the working class.

[Reporter] Are these measures hard on the people?

[Figueredo] These measures are hard on the country, and everyone has to contribute.

—Figueredo Planchart has just returned from Mexico and Brazil, where he went with the president-elect. He was visiting Dr Barrios to report on what was discussed during both trips. He said the result of the tour was "very interesting," because after holding conversations with the presidents of Mexico and Brazil, "we see there are points of agreement."

[Figueredo] We amply talked about topics concerning these countries, such as the debt, integration issues, and strengthening the ties of international policy.

[Reporter] What possibilities do you see that this club of debtors proposed by President Perez will be formed?

[Figueredo] It is not a club of debtors. At no time during the conversations did I hear anything being said about this, but rather of strengthening the action of the Group of Eight. In other words, the proposals discussed with the ministers would be put into practice in the political field.

President Perez has also held conversations with U.S. President-elect George Bush, and he is willing to take care of this, including confronting the debt issue. I think there are interesting possibilities ahead for holding conversations on this topic.

—Figueredo Planchart denied Perez had any present plans to visit Washington, and he pointed out that the president-elect would be leaving on 14 January for the Middle East. "That tour is part of the efforts we have been making since the November meeting in Vienna to strengthen the favorable trend in oil prices."

DISIP Agents Close Station, Arrest Newsman

PA1801032889 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1831 GMT 14 Jan 89

[Text] Caracas, 14 Jan (DPA)—Agents of the Directorate of Intelligence and Prevention Services [DISIP] have closed "Ondas Panamericanas," a radio station in El Vigia, in the Andean region. DISIP agents also arrested journalist Jose Rafael Ramirez Castellanos, the station's news director, for criticizing a court decision releasing five DISIP agents.

The evening newspaper EL MUNDO today reported in Caracas that "the action was carried out by the DISIP in a violent and abusive manner, without the participation of a prosecutor."

The newspaper added that this type of measure, ordered by Omar Gonzalo Velandria, the judge of the Sixth Penal Court, must be carried out by Technical Judicial Police agents in the presence of a prosecutor and not by the DISIP.

A few days ago, Ramirez reported the acquittal of five DISIP agents who were allegedly involved in the deaths of three youths on 16 January 1988.

* Commentary on Cabinet, Economy, Other Issues

33480069 Caracas BOHEMIA in Spanish 5 Dec 88 pp 10-13

[Commentary by Leopoldo Linares]

[Text] The power struggle in Democratic Action does not end with the 4 December elections. On the contrary, the day after the elections the headaches begin both for the president-elect, who must begin putting together his government, and for the party leadership, whose members will have to agree on the rules of play that will govern the upcoming elections.

Carlos Andres Perez (CAP) will have the most problems, because the transition in Venezuela is very short (the president is elected in December and takes office in the 1st week of February) and he must immediately deal with the composition of the executive power structure, the decision as to who will lead the legislative bodies, and the possible restructuring of the party commands. The latter measure depends on whether CAP appoints some national or local party leaders to government posts.

It is no secret that the president of Venezuela for the 1989-1994 term will face a very delicate situation. On the first level are the economic problems, which include rising inflation, the foreign debt, the fall in oil prices, and the budget deficit. There are also important political matters to which the new chief of state must give careful attention, since in our country, as in all good president-run nations, all matters are handled by the president and all decisions depend on his judgment.

Among the political matters, foremost will be the leadership of the legislative bodies. This is something that cannot be delayed or postponed, because the new Parliament must be installed on 23 January of next year, according to the Constitution. It should be recalled that 10 days later, the president who is elected in the 4 December elections will have to take the oath of office.

In recent years, since the skirmishes that took place under Presidents Betancourt and Leoni, the AD and COPEI parties have taken turns in the presidencies of the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies in compliance with the so-called parliamentary institutional pact. Under this agreement, when AD wins the elections, the presidency of Congress goes to a member of that party. If, on the other hand, COPEI wins the elections, a member of the green party occupies that post. This pact has its origin in the fact, also derived from a constitutional norm, that when the president of the republic is permanently absent or resigns, the president of the Congress is to serve as interim head of state until a new presidential election can be held.

There is no good reason to doubt that this pact will continue to apply. Nevertheless, given the tone of the election campaign and CAP's unpredictable personality, it would come as no surprise if the presidency of the legislature were negotiated differently. There have been persistent rumors in Parliament about certain agreements, or at least some talks, whose purpose would be to assure the parliamentary support of the Movement Toward Socialism (MAS) for Perez' programs. And this support, as is logical in politics, would not be given without quid pro quos. For this reason, some political analysts and observers have ventured to predict that the presidency of Congress will naturally be held by AD, while the presidency of the Chamber of Deputies will go to a MAS member.

At any rate, possible agreements at the congressional level will depend, to a large extent, on the results of the lower-level elections. If, as has been predicted, AD loses its parliamentary majority, it will naturally have to strike a bargain with other political forces. In principle, that bargain could be with COPEI, as has been the case in this presidential term. But if that party shows reluctance or demands higher quotas, as is its custom (recall the rift

between President Raul Leoni and COPEI when that party wanted half the cabinet), AD would certainly have to go after the votes of the MAS, of the Democratic Republican Union (URD), or of any of the small parties that manage to win a significant representation in December.

Problems of Power

In addition, CAP's headaches at the government level will depend a great deal on the results of the election. If the white party candidate obtains a significant or overwhelming majority, many burdens will clearly be lightened for him. On the contrary, if he wins by a slim margin, things will be more difficult.

Given CAP's promise to do things differently and to govern with new faces, we must conclude that he will recruit high-ranking officials not only from his own party, but also from other political groups and from independent sectors. The problems will arise when it comes time to play chess in the AD National Executive Committee (CEN) and local committees. It is worth recalling the problem that arose in the upper echelons or "summit" of AD before President Jaime Lusinchi took office. On that occasion, the high-ranking AD leaders had a row because several of them hankered after the same posts. When President Lusinchi resolved to name Octavio Lepage minister of domestic relations, he offended not only Alejandro Izaguirre, to whom he had practically offered the job, but also many people in the orthodox sector of AD. This is the origin of some of the backstabbing that is still going on within the white party.

Many names from the AD high command (CEN) are being bandied about as possibilities for posts in the new government. For the time being, the names being mentioned are David Morales Bello, Alejandro Izaguirre, Pedro Paris Montesinos, Celestino Armas, Hector Alonso Lopez, Virgilio Avila Vivas, Lewis Perez Daboin, and Antonio Ledezma. Possible repeats include only Leopoldo Sucre Figarella, who has been praised by Perez himself, and Simon Alberto Consalvi, who is mentioned as a possible prime minister or cabinet chief. This is only if the cabinet reform advocated by the AD candidate actually takes place and this position is created. The independents mentioned include Reinaldo Figueredo, Pedro Tinoco, Emilio Conde Jahn, and Ana Lucina Garcia Maldonado. They would occupy posts in the cabinet, in the Central Bank, and other high-ranking agencies. Finally, it is rumored that Miguel Rodriguez (the one at the Institute of Higher Education for Administration, not to be confused with the man by the same name who coordinated CAP's platform) will be one of the ministers in the economy cabinet.

CAP must study the movement of pieces within his own party very carefully. For example, if he names Izaguirre as a minister, he would have trouble filling the position of AD general secretary. We think that the popular "policeman" Izaguirre will stay on as party general secretary, at least until the new internal process is completed, and that he will enter a second Perez cabinet.

Another headache will be the selection of the president of Congress and the minister of domestic relations. These posts have traditionally been viewed in AD as rungs on the presidential ladder. For example, if Morales Bello is named president of Congress, Carlos Canache Mata, Humberto Celli, Luis Pinerua Ordaz, and other aspirants for the nomination in 1993 will certainly complain. The same thing will happen if Morales Bello goes to the Domestic Relations Ministry. For all these reasons, the rumors that Consalvi will remain at the Carmelitas office beyond February 1989, and that Pedro Paris Montesinos may be chosen to preside over Congress, sound like they have some truth to them. Paris Montesinos is a leader of considerable influence among CAP's followers, but he is also viewed favorably by Lusinchi and the orthodox wing of AD. And most importantly, he has never shown any interest in running for president, so he could be a compromise choice for the number-two position in the country's institutional hierarchy.

Elections Galore

If the economic-social problems (inflation, high cost of living, foreign debt, unemployment, housing shortage, deterioration of services and of the standard of living) are quite serious, no less serious are the electoral difficulties that President Carlos Andres Perez will have to contend with.

First of all, his government will have to give careful consideration to the fact that in 1989 there will be elections to choose mayors, city council members, and state governors. These will be very dicey elections for AD, as its prestige, its famous party machinery, and its future as a political organization will all be at stake. Moreover, in all these elections, the organizations and personalities linked to community life will play a very crucial role. Practically for the first time in Venezuela, there will be single-candidate elections in which the candidate's own personality and record will really count. Furthermore, the political associations and the new regional leaderships will stand out.

But in addition to these national elections, the white party will have to deal with the election in the Confederation of Venezuelan Workers (CTV). In that election, the selection of Juan Jose Delpino's successor as president of the CTV will be the most important issue. For several months now a silent battle has been taking shape behind the scenes in AD between Federico Ramirez Leon and Cesar Gil, both of whom aspire to that position. The powerful AD trade union bureau has not yet given its official word on the name of the candidate for the leadership of the country's main trade union confederation. On the contrary, the AD union chief, Antonio Rios, recently demanded that this battle be postponed until after the national elections.

Moreover, after January 1989 the maneuvering for party leadership posts and for the presidential candidacy in 1993 will begin in AD. AD members will undoubtedly have to elect a new CEN and other leaders at all levels by 1990. The currents are already flowing in that direction. As is unfortunately the custom in our country, once the president is elected in December, the campaign for 1993 will begin immediately, and naturally there will be talk of precandidacies within the party, with the first option of winning the coming elections.

As our readers can see, Carlos Andres Perez will not be lying on a bed of roses. That is why we have stated that the power struggle does not end with the elections in December, but merely ends a chapter. The entire electoral fan to which we have referred in this article is just beginning to open.

Guyana

President Hoyte To Visit Cuba 26 Jan

FL1801114589 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 18 Jan 89

[Text] Guyanese President Desmond Hoyte travels to Trinidad and Tobago today for a 1-day visit. He will deliver a speech to the businessmen of the Chamber of Commerce in Port-au-Spain. The Guyanese leader is expected to tell of his plans to involve foreign private entrepreneurs in his country's development. He is also expected to outline the economic recovery program which will begin once Guyana reaches an agreement with the IMF for a loan.

Mr Hoyte will then leave for Cuba next Thursday January 26. He has been invited there by President Fidel Castro and is expected to spend 4 days.

Urged To Strengthen Ties

FL2401173889 Bridgetown CANA in English 1649 GMT 24 Jan 89

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Jan 24, CANA—Guyana's main opposition group, the Peoples' Progressive Party (PPP), has called on President Desmond Hoyte to use his January 26-30 official visit to Cuba to strengthen relations between the two states.

The PPP said: "President Hoyte should do his best to upgrade trade relations with Cuba on a mutually advantageous footing. In this, he should propose Guyana's products for counter-trade arrangements.

"This, however, will call for a substantial boost in Guyanas' productive output and exports, which today are in the doldrums. There should also be avenues pinpointed where Cuba-Guyana relations should be strengthened and where Cuba's economic interests would not be snubbed, as for example during the first IMF (International Monetary Fund) agreement in the unfortunate discriminatory arrangement which relegated Cuba's fishing fleet to waters where there were very few fish to catch, the U.S. and Japanese fishing were not so restricted."

The PPP advised: "Let this not be just another trip overseas for the president, let tangible benefits accrue from it."

Hoyte is scheduled to leave here Thursday for his four day "official and friendly" visit to Cuba in response to an invitation from President Castro.

The party said that perhaps, the experiences of Hoyte during his stay in Cuba "would suffice to educate him at first hand about the econmic success of that socialist state under the dynamic leadership" of Castro.

It urged Hoyte to pay "special attention" to Cuba's sugar industry, particularly to its development through the use of its by-products for manufacturing purposes. It said Hoyte should take note that Cuba under Castro has been able to embark on light and heavy with aid of socialist states. [sentence as received]

Brazilian President Sarney To Arrive 3 March

FL2101201989 Bridgetown CANA in English 1848 GMT 21 Jan 89

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Jan 21, CANA—Brazilian President Jose Sarney arrives in Guyana March 3 on a 2 day visit—the first here by a head of state from the neighbouring South American country. "The two heads of state are expected to discuss the present state of bilateral relations between their two neighbouring countries with a view to consolidating and strengthening them," a statement from the Guyana Information Ministry explained. President Sarney's visit is at the invitation of Guyana President Desmond Hoyte. "The visit will also provide an opportunity for an exchange of views on regional and international issues of mutal interest," the ministry said.

President Sarney's visit follows an official 3-day one last September by Brazil's Foreign Minister Roberto de Abreu Sodre and an official visit to Brazil by the late president of Guyana, Forbes Burnham. During De Abreu Sodres visit, a document titled the "working programme of Georgetown" was signed by the two countries and deemed "a genuine framework for bilateral cooperation" between the two countires which would "henceforth be the basis and the main reference for the implementation of joint activities between Guyana and Brazil."

The Brazilian foreign minister had also agreed his Guyanese counterpart, Rashleigh Jackson, that the third meeting of the Guyana Brazil joint commission should be held early this year in order to examine the ways of effectively implementing the several agreements concluded between the two countries. The agreements

signed last September covered among other things the prevention, control, supervision and repression of the improper use and illicit traffic of narcotic drugs and technical and scientific cooperation.

Hoyte Addresses Party Council Meeting
FL2501161589 Bridgetown CANA in English 1432 GMT 25 Jan 89

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Jan 25, CANA—Guyana's ruling Peoples' National Congress (PNC) has ended its first General Council meeting for the year with party leader, President Desmond Hoyte calling on members to be "visibly militant."

According to state radio, the Guyana Broadcasting Corporation (GBC), Hoyte told party members about "intended acts of mischief from the political opposition" and called on them to help ensure that peace prevails in the country. Hoyte's remarks are seen here as a reference to plans by the rebel trade union grouping, the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Guyana (FITUG) to organise a one-day general strike on a date to announced.

According to GBC, Hoyte told members of the PNC General Council, the party's highest decision-making forum in between biennial congresses of the party, they need to be visibly militant for some people are planning to disrupt the peace. He also emphasised the need for vigilance and stressed that all party members and supporters must protect self, party and country. He also stressed that the PNC is broad-based institution concerned with the development of the country. It is already strong but must stronger through greater interaction with the people who must be involved in the hard of national reconstruction, he said. The challenges of the country's economic recovery programme must be met in a vigorous, enthusiatic, sustained and successful manner, Hoyte told the gathering.

The state-owned CHRONICLE newspaper said that in a presention to the General Council meeting Hoyte stressed that the government's economic recovery programme (ERP) "is not going to be a bed of roses" and that there will be "an element of stringency" in the programme. "We're going to have to accept the element of stringency in order to achieve the wider objective," and there will be some price rises to "strengthen out" distortions which give rise to illicit trading and other irregularities, the CHRONICLE reported Hoyte as saying.

Hoyte also announced that the government will take fiscal measures in the form of tax allowances and increased wages and salaries to soften the impact of the recovery programme on the population. And, referring to the need to curb inflation, he told Saturday's sessions: "I want to say to you frankly that there can be no question of indexation of wages and salaries to movements in the cost of living. He said the government is conscious of the need for assistance over and above tax allowances and pay increases to be dircted particularly to vulnerable groups such as pensioners, young school leavers and urban and rural poor and this need is being addressed through the formulation of a social impact amelioration programme (SIMAP). Guyana, he told the meeting, needs to "buckle down" if it is to make a success of its economic recovery programme.

U.S., British Troops To Train in Nation
FL1401172289 Bridgetown CANA in English 1744 GMT 14 Jan 89

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Jan 14, CANA—A contingent of British soldiers drawn from the army's air corps will be in Guyana next month for a stint of "adventure training", Chief of Staff of the Guyana Defence Force (GDR) Major General Norman McLean, has said.

He told CANA the British soldiers will spend two to three weeks in Guyana. They will be coming at a time when opposition political parties are objecting to plans for teams of soldiers from the U.S. Southern Command in Panama to come here to participate in medical and well-drilling programmes.

McLean said he could not see why the political parties were making "a lot of fuss" about plans for the U.S. soldiers to visit Guyana to paticipate in community development projects.

A grouping of opposition political parties known as the Patriotic Coalition for Democracy (PCD) last October called the proposed visit by the American soldiers "ill conceived and a potential threat to Guyana's sovereignty".

However, the Guyana Army chief said they were at liberty to say whatever they want, but he could not see "why all the fuss all of a sudden".

Suriname

Brazilian President To Visit 2 March
FL1901234989 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 19 Jan 89

[Text] Brazilian President Jose Sarney will pay an official visit to Suriname. The Brazilian head of state will arrive in Suriname on March 2d and will be the first Brazilian president to visit our country. His visit is at the invitation of the Government of Suriname.

Shankar: Relations With Brazil 'Essential'
FL2301190089 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 23 Jan 89

[Text] Suriname and Brazil want to intensify their bilateral relations. Both countries have also expressed the wish for integration in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Those statements were made by President Ramsewak Shankar and the new Brazilian ambassador to Suriname when the ambassador presented his credentials to the president last week.

The president said that Suriname regards its relations with Brazil as essential in its drive for integration in the region.

Ambassador (Madeiro) [words indistinct] with Suriname's position since his country shares this opinion. The Brazilian ambassador said he will do his utmost to prove that Brazil is Suriname's true and reliable friend.

Refugee Leaders Present Demands to Lachmon

FL1801175489 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 18 Jan 89

[Text] The National Assembly delegation which is visiting French Guiana yesterday held talks with representatives of the Surinamese refugees in that country. The refugees' leaders presented a long list of demands to the Surinamese delegation. The Government of Suriname must meet all these demands if it wants the refugees to return to their villages in east Suriname, said the leaders.

The most important demand is the guarantee of their safety. Further, there are several other demands which are aimed at improving the socioeconomic conditions of the refugees after their return to Suriname. Assembly Chairman Jaggernath Lachmon, head of the Surinames delegation, promised the refugees that he will inform the government about their demands.

Approximately 8,000 refugees are living in (?three) refugee camps in French Guiana after leaving their villages in east Suriname because of terrorist activities in that area by the Brunswijk gang and actions by the National Army against the gang.

More on Meeting With Refugees

PM2501125089 Rotterdam NRC HANDELSBLAD in Dutch 18 Jan 89 p 3

[Unnamed "own correspondent" dispatch: "Surinamers in Guiana Do Not Want To Be Guinea Pigs"]

[Text] Paramaribo, 18 Jan—Surinamers in refugee camps in French Guiana do not want to be the guinea pigs in Paramaribo's plans for the return of refugees to their homes. This was told to a Surinamese National Assembly delegation led by Assembly Chairman Lachmon during a visit to the camps.

The Surinamers living in the camps said that the Surinamese authorities must first get refugees from the interior living in Paramaribo to return home. The Surinamers living in refugee camps in French Guiana would then return of their own accord. The delegation was again told that the refugees will not return to Suriname unless their safety is guaranteed. Lachmon pointed out to them that Suriname is being governed as a democratic state in accordance with the law, but he could not guarantee their safety. Lachmon thought that the fact that he himself lives in Suriname is sufficient proof of their safety.

The camp leaders seemed to be well-prepared for their meeting with the delegation. They were aggressive in pressing a very long list of demands and said that they are no longer prepared to be taken for fools, although they appreciated the fact that an assembly delegation had sought them out and that the assembly chairman was in the delegation. On the other hand, they consider that the government has already made a large number of promises, but nothing has yet been done. For example, there was a promise of changes to the Constitution, but these have not materialized. Lachmon said in response that if he wants it, the constitution would be changed tomorrow. But there is no reason for this.

Bouterse on Military's Role in Peace Process

FL2301193389 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 23 Jan 89

[Text] The contribution of the military authority is very important for the peace process. This was stated by Commander Desi Bouterse yesterday in a televised interview.

According to Bouterse, the peace process won't yield much result if the military authority is not consulted. He said the government must bring all parties together and in an honest way study how peace can be brought about.

Bouterse also spoke about the recent sending of an assembly delegation to the refugee camp in French Guiana. He said it's a pity that the distress of the people in the refugee camp is being used in a political game. According to Bouterse, the visit of the assembly delegation to the refugee camp has only maintained (?complications).

Arron, Sedoc Leave for Venezuela 23 Jan

FL2001213689 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 20 Jan 89

[Text] Suriname's Vice President Henck Arron and Foreign Minister Eddie Sedoc will leave for Venezuela on 23 January. The two officials will be in Venezuela for the inauguration of Venezuela's new president, Carlos Andres Perez; this was stated to our newsroom this morning by government spokesman (Glenford Man).

Vice President Arron and Foreign Minister Sedoc will be out of the country for 4 days. The government spokesman couldn't say if the two Surinamese ministers will have talks at the government level during their visit to Venezuela.

Heidweiller Resigns After Criticizing Policies

PM2301093189 Amsterdam DE VOLKSKRANT in Dutch 13 Jan 89 p 4

[ANP dispatch: "Former Surinamese Ambassador Heidweiller Resigns After Row"]

[Text] Paramaribo—Henk Heidweiller, who was Surinamese ambassador to the Netherlands during the period of the revolutionary government and most recently policy adviser at the Foreign Ministry in Paramaribo, submitted his resignation to the government Thursday [12 January]. He did so after being suspended by Foreign Minister Eddie Sedoc.

After independence in 1975 Heidweiller represented Suriname at the United Nations and the Organization of American States and was also ambassador to the Netherlands under the revolutionary regime. Last week he clashed with Sedoc over a press conference. He said that he did not agree with the foreign policy of the democratically elected government and declared that Suriname dances too much to the tune of the United States and the Netherlands.

Sedoc considered that Heidweiller had made "unfounded and inadmissible" references to him. He announced "disciplinary measures because of undisciplined behavior."

Netherlands Mounts Antimalaria Campaign

PM2301165189 Amsterdam DE VOLKSKRANT in Dutch 18 Jan 89 p 1

[Han Hansen report: "Malaria Epidemic Spreading in Ungoverned Eastern Suriname"]

[Excerpt] The Hague—Development Cooperation Minister Bukman has made 200,000 guilders available to combat malaria in eastern Suriname. The disease has surfaced in the "ungoverned" eastern region of the country.

Next month the Zeister Zendings Genootschap (ZZG) [Zeister Mission Society] will deploy special teams for a campaign to combat malaria in the region. The campaign will make use of a new method of protection against the mosquitoes which spread the disease.

The Surinamese Government has no control over the greater part of eastern Suriname, where Ronnie Brunswijk's Jungle Commando are running things. Half of the civilian population in the area has fled to neighboring French Guiana, fearing violence by the National Army.

The ZZG and the Central Mission Commissariat were informed by Minister Bukman at the end of last week that in the period through the end of April they will be able to count on an additional 2.9 million guilders for the supply of food and medicines to the remaining population. This figure includes the 200,000 guilders to combat malaria. The money will come from the 1.7 million guilder development fund for Suriname. [passage omitted]